

Focus: TV**Focus: Reality TV Shows**

“Documentaries vs. Reality TV: How They Shape Truth – Wisecrack Edition“, 2019. <https://t1p.de/g5ew>, from min. 9:20 onwards.

Outline how reality TV narrativizes reality. Keywords are:

- editing
- storytelling
- character construction
- selection
- artificially constructed situations
- identifiable heroes
- tension of a quest
- obstacles overcome
- happy end

Introduction to Lesson:

1. Do you have a “guilty pleasure“? Do you watch reality TV?
2. Pick one episode of a British reality TV show and examine how they craft reality.
3. a. Discuss whether Gogglebox, watching people react to reality TV from their own homes, portrays an authentic picture of British society.
3. b. Comment on: “At a time of cultural and political division in Britain, these gentle reality shows offer some light relief. Lisa Clark, the executive producer of “Gone Fishing,” ‘I think because in the last few years the world has become so fractious and so tense in so many different areas, with President Trump and with Brexit, something like this is a pure form of escapism,’ she said.“
(<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/arts/television/great-british-baking-show-uk-reality.html>)

Further information:

contents	title	website
reality TV	NYT. In Turbulent Times, Comforting Reality Shows Captivate U.K. Viewers.2019	https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/20/arts/television/great-british-baking-show-uk-reality.html
List of reality TV shows	Planet Radio. The UK’s most loved reality shows revealed. 2021.	https://planetradio.co.uk/hits-radio/entertainment/television/reality-tv-shows/
	Cosmopolitan. 30 British Reality Shows That Make American TV Look Bloody Boring. 2020.	https://www.cosmopolitan.com/entertainment/tv/g24848654/best-british-reality-tv-shows/
	Twitter: GoggleBox	https://twitter.com/C4Gogglebox

Focus: Harry Styles

Fluid Masculinity

Introduction to Lesson:

Instagram. Vogue Cover, December 2020: <https://t1p.de/dtlu>.

Trailer, James Bond. No Time To Die. 2021, <https://t1p.de/wbdu>.

1. Describe the Vogue cover.
1. a. Describe the trailer of No Time To Die.
2. Compare and contrast concepts of masculinity as portrayed by Harry Styles and James Bond (in 2021).
3. a. Comment on: “‘To me, he’s very modern,’ says Wilde of Styles, ‘and I hope that this brand of confidence as a male that Harry has—truly devoid of any traces of toxic masculinity—is indicative of his generation and therefore the future of the world. I think he is in many ways championing that, spearheading that. It’s pretty powerful and kind of extraordinary to see someone in his position redefining what it can mean to be a man with confidence. He’s really in touch with his feminine side because it’s something natural,’ notes Michele. ‘And he’s a big inspiration to a younger generation—about how you can be in a totally free playground when you feel comfortable. I think that he’s a revolutionary.’”
(<https://www.vogue.com/article/harry-styles-cover-december-2020>, [<https://t1p.de/f1bp>])
3. b. When Judi Dench’s M first meets Pierce Brosnan’s James Bond in *Golden Eye* (1995), she calls him a “sexist, misogynist dinosaur, a relic of the cold war”. Comment.
(cf. The Guardian. Time’s up for James Bond: is 007 too toxic for the #MeToo era? 2018, <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2018/jan/30/times-up-for-james-bond-is-007-too-brutish-for-the-me-too-era>)

Focus: Art

Visit British museums online.

Virtual tours can be found here:

- Natural History Museum: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/virtual-museum.html>
- Painted Hall of the Old Royal Naval College: <https://virtualltour.ornc.org/>
- The National Gallery: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>
- The British Museum: <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com/>
- Courtauld Gallery: <https://courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/the-courtauld-gallery-virtual-tour/>

Focus: Brit Awards**Pre-Class:**

Which British music artists do you know?

(This resource might help you: “Brit Awards 2021: Full list of award winners and nominees,” <https://t1p.de/xvba>.)

Introduction to lesson:

The BRITs 2021 in 3 minutes | The BRIT Awards 2021: <https://t1p.de/45bs>

Tasks:

1. Name British musicians, via [answergarden.ch](https://www.answer-garden.com).
2. Examine the performance of Diversity take to the stage with POWERFUL Black Lives Matter performance | Semi-Finals | BGT 2020, <https://t1p.de/0l664>, focus on
 - spoken word
 - performance
3. a. “The concept of Britishness has been in the public discourse in the most negative way possible – it has become very, very narrow in these last five to six years. I think the arts are somewhere that they can reverse that and widen it up.” Discuss.

(Rina Sawayama. 'It's Othering' – British-Japanese Artist Rina Sawayama Can't Enter British Awards. 2020, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/g5p8gj/mercury-prize-brits-rina-sawayama>)

3. b. Comment on Rina Sawayama's tweet: @rinasawayama: “REDEFINING BRITISHNESS !!!! shoutout @bpi_music !!!! #SAWAYAMAISBRITISH !!”, <https://t1p.de/kouz>.

Further information:

contents	title	website
music + diversity	UK Music Diversity Report 2020	https://www.ukmusic.org/equality-diversity/uk-music-diversity-report-2020/
Brit Awards	BBC. Brit Awards change rules thanks to pop star Rina Sawayama. 2021.	https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-56190413