

## Core Skills Analysis

### English

- Developed critical reading skills by analyzing the background information of media contributors, discerning tone and intent.
- Enhanced vocabulary related to media critique, expertise, and perspective evaluation through research and discussion.
- Practiced formal evaluative writing or spoken articulation by discussing the reliability and credibility of source material.
- Gained an understanding of how bias and author background influence language and content in media reviews.

### Social Studies

- Explored how social and professional backgrounds shape perspectives in public media and cultural critiques.
- Investigated the impact of authority and credibility on public opinion and consumer trust within media review platforms.
- Considered the ethical implications of transparency and citation in media communication and information dissemination.
- Analyzed societal expectations around childhood development expertise and how this influences media evaluation standards.

### Media Studies

- Learned to critically evaluate the qualifications and biases of media reviewers to assess trustworthiness.
- Understood the importance of source citations and verifiable expertise in maintaining media review credibility.
- Identified potential shortcomings in popular media review sites, recognizing gaps in expertise and accountability.
- Discussed the influence of contributor motivation on the framing of media content and reviews.

### Tips

To deepen Grace's understanding, encourage her to explore other media review sources and compare how their contributors' backgrounds influence their critiques. She could engage in creating her own media reviews, focusing on transparent citation and balanced perspectives. Facilitate discussions about ethical responsibilities in media criticism, including how to recognize bias and the importance of using credible evidence. Additionally, consider role-playing exercises where Grace acts as a media reviewer to practice applying standards of expertise and critical thinking.

### Book Recommendations

- [Amusing Ourselves to Death](#) by Neil Postman: An insightful exploration of media's impact on culture and public discourse, highlighting the importance of critical media literacy.
- [Media Literacy](#) by W. James Potter: A comprehensive guide to understanding and analyzing media messages and the role of media consumers.
- [Digital Literacy For Dummies](#) by Fiona Smith: An accessible introduction to navigating digital media, understanding sources, and developing critical evaluation skills.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.8: Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text,

assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient.

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.9: Analyze how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.1: Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.7.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 7 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

### **Try This Next**

- Create a worksheet mapping out contributors' credentials, perspectives, and potential biases with supporting evidence.
- Develop quiz questions that ask students to identify bias and evaluate the credibility of different media reviewers.

### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity likely fostered Grace's curiosity and confidence in questioning authoritative sources, while promoting patience and persistence in researching and discussing complex issues related to credibility and bias. The collaborative discussion with an adult mentor probably supported her social and communication skills.