Who Sets the Standard?

Explore how different groups shape self-evaluation.

S.4.2 "Identify various reference groups and explain how they are used by individuals to evaluate themselves."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the four groups Maya uses to evaluate her work, and number them 1 to 4 in the order they appear. Circle a detail that shows what each group helps her judge.

Maya's Podcast

1. On Thursday, Maya recorded a three-minute interview for her school's podcast. She listened to her first cut beside two classmates in the audio club. Their interviews had clear introductions and short pauses between questions. Maya noticed that her own introduction was hard to follow. The audio club was a reference group for her: a group whose practices she used to judge her own work. She did not assume every club member was better than she was. Instead, she compared a specific feature, how easily listeners could understand the opening, and revised that part of her recording.

2. At home, Maya played the new opening for her uncle and younger cousin. Her family often shared stories at dinner and asked questions when a detail was missing. When her cousin asked who the guest was, Maya realized she had skipped that fact. Family members became another reference group, helping her judge whether a listener outside the club could follow the story. Maya also admired a professional local radio team, though she had never met its members. She listened to how its reporters introduced guests and used that team as a model for the kind of interviewer she hoped to become.

3. While browsing student podcasts, Maya found a circle of creators who posted misleading titles to attract clicks. They treated a high play count as the main sign of success. Maya decided she did not want to judge her work by that measure, even if it could boost her audience. This circle was a reference group she used as a contrast: its habits clarified the kind of producer she did not want to be. Her comparisons did different jobs. Club members helped her improve sound and structure, family tested clarity for outsiders, radio reporters offered a goal, and the online creators marked a boundary.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya use the audio club to evaluate her interview?

2. What did Maya learn by using her family as a reference group instead of relying only on the audio club?

3. Why could the local radio team be Maya's reference group even though she had never met its members?

4. How did Maya use the online creators as a reference group without wanting to copy them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In four sentences, describe a skill you are developing and two groups you could use to evaluate it. Choose one group you belong to and one you hope to join or prefer not to resemble, then explain what each comparison shows you about your skill.

Who Sets the Standard?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the four groups Maya uses to evaluate her work, and number them 1 to 4 in the order they appear. Circle a detail that shows what each group helps her judge. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya use the audio club to evaluate her interview?	**She compared the clarity of her opening with club members' clear introductions and revised her recording.**
2	What did Maya learn by using her family as a reference group instead of relying only on the audio club?	**Her cousin's question showed that Maya had not identified the guest clearly for a listener outside the club.**
3	Why could the local radio team be Maya's reference group even though she had never met its members?	**She used its reporters' guest introductions as a model for the interviewer she hoped to become.**
4	How did Maya use the online creators as a reference group without wanting to copy them?	**She rejected their use of misleading titles and high play counts as measures of success.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am learning to cook for a community dinner. I compare my knife safety with my cooking class, a group I belong to, and notice that I need to slow down. I also watch a professional kitchen team I hope to join someday and compare how clearly I explain each step to a helper. The first comparison shows me that I need safer cuts, while the second shows me that I need to give clearer directions.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that identify the group and the specific comparison Maya makes. For the open task, look for two distinct groups, the student's relationship to each, and a clear self-evaluation based on each comparison.