



Media and Communication

Review: reviewing a student news blog

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes an online school news page worth reading?
2. Would you rather get school news from a blog, video or podcast?
3. What can make online information difficult to follow?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write a review, often for a student magazine.
Use an engaging title.
Describe key features clearly.
Evaluate positives and negatives.
Make a clear recommendation.

2. Exam-style task

Your school recently launched a student news blog. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the blog for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the student news blog to help you:

'The interviews are interesting.' 'Some posts are too long.'
'The photos make it lively.' 'It is not updated often enough.'

Now write a review of the student news blog for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model review

School News With a Real Voice

Can a school blog be more than just announcements? The new student news blog shows that it can, especially when students are allowed to write in their own voices.

The blog includes interviews, event reports, photo galleries and short opinion pieces. It is easy to access from the school website, and the layout is clear enough to read quickly on a phone between lessons.

The interviews are the strongest feature because they make school news feel more personal. I also liked the photos, which make the posts livelier and help readers understand what happened at events.

However, some posts are too long and could be edited more tightly. The blog is also not updated often enough, so it sometimes feels a little out of date.

Overall, I would recommend the blog to students who want a quick, friendly way to keep up with school life. Shorter posts and weekly updates would make it even better.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and tone

Work with the model review. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Review structure	Find the title, hook, key facts, description, opinion and recommendation.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer describe the blog and its main features?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with weaknesses in the content or updates?	
Audience and tone	Find two places where the review sounds lively or suitable for the reader.	
Development	Find one extra detail, example or personal reaction that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
what the blog is like	feature list + access language	You are explaining what the blog contains and how readers use it.	includes interviews... / easy to access
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	the strongest feature / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who would find the blog useful.	I would recommend... / students who want...

6. Build a clear review

Notice how review phrases help you move from the opening to the final recommendation.

Job	Useful review phrases
open with key details	Can a school blog be more than...? / includes interviews...
evaluate positives	the strongest feature / I also liked...
balance negatives	However... / a little out of date
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who...

7. Vocabulary and useful review phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this review. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe the blog	student news blog / interviews / photo galleries / opinion pieces	
describe positives	personal / lively / clear layout / easy to access	
describe negatives	too long / not updated often / out of date	
sound review-like	with a real voice / shows that it can / However...	
recommend	quick friendly way / keep up with school life / weekly updates	

8. Plan your own review

Use the same task, or change the details to a similar event, place, service or activity.

Prompt	My idea	Useful language
title and opening		
description / features		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

