

B. Over to You

1 Read the sentences and check (✓) the one that is an overgeneralization.

- ☐ a. *Recovery*, by American rapper Eminem, was the best-selling album in the United States in 2010.
- ☐ b. A 2010 study indicated that many parents worry about their teenagers listening to rap music.
- ☐ c. Listening to rap music causes violent behavior in teenagers.

2 Read each sentence in the chart, and decide if it makes an overgeneralization or not. Check (✓) the box in the correct column.

| | OVERGENERALIZATION | NOT AN OVERGENERALIZATION |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Rap music affects listeners negatively. | | |
| 2. Rap songs tend to have violent lyrics. | | |
| 3. Anthropologist Sam Dunn states that some people incorrectly blame heavy metal music for violent acts. | | |
| 4. It is clear that heavy metal music causes everyone to act violently. | | |
| 5. Regardless of the lyrical content, music has no impact on behavior. | | |
| 6. In general, experts are unsure about the link between music and behavior. | | |
| 7. Many parents perceive lyrics in songs by the band Dead Kennedys to be violent. | | |
| 8. Although people enjoy rock music, it always contains violent lyrics. | | |
| 9. Dr. Wass, a psychologist, claims that 17 percent of teenagers listen to music with violent lyrics. | | |
| 10. Because parents disapprove of inappropriate music, every teenager loves it. | | |



CHECK!

- 1 Overgeneralizations are statements that are too general, or _____ based only on a few examples. They are _____, and often inaccurate.
- 2 Overgeneralizations contain words like *all* and _____. Instead, use words like *many*, *some*, and _____.
- 3 Avoid overgeneralizations in your writing by supporting your ideas with plenty of details and _____, and including _____ from outside sources.

C. Practice

- 1 Read the paragraph about a rapper. It includes some overgeneralizations. Decide which of the numbered sentences / phrases make overgeneralizations, and which do not. Write MO for Making an Overgeneralization or AO for Avoiding an Overgeneralization.**

Starting in 2002, ¹Big Biz's music became extremely popular with teenagers. ²In 2011, his rap album sold seven million copies – more than any other in the world. Big Biz was born in 1984 with the name Caleb Bismarck in Huntsville, Alabama. ³He moved to Atlanta on his 18th birthday, with only \$50 in his wallet. ⁴Atlanta is a violent city. Big Biz writes songs about his life in Atlanta, and as a result, ⁵some of his lyrics can be violent. In 2007, Big Biz was featured in the movie *Georgia Grit*. It is about a rapper trying to overcome challenges in his career. ⁶All rappers have to overcome obstacles. The movie is not a biography of Big Biz's life, but there are some similarities. ⁷Many of Big Biz's experiences influenced his music, and ⁸his fans always support his success.

1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____
5 ____ 6 ____ 7 ____ 8 ____

- 2 Match the overgeneralizations (1–6) with the corrections (a–f).**

- ____ 1 Women started the Parents' Music Resource Center (PMRC).
____ 2 Everyone agrees that lyrics should be printed on album covers.
____ 3 Members of one generation never like the music of the generation after them.
____ 4 In the past, no parents wanted their children listening to music.
____ 5 Parents hate music.
____ 6 Children do not care what their parents think of the music they listen to.
- a In the 1950s, some parents did not want their children to listen to rock music.
b Some children listen to music that they enjoy no matter what their parents think.
c Twenty women who were married to senators started the Parents' Music Resource Center (PMRC).
d Like many other parents, members of the PMRC believed album covers should display lyrics to clearly indicate offensive language.
e For the most part, older generations tend not to enjoy the same music that younger generations do.
f There are parents who disapprove of some kinds of music.

D. Skill Quiz

Check (✓) the correct answer for each item.

- 1 An overgeneralization is
 - ☐ a. an extremely precise statement.
 - ☐ b. a conclusion based on only a few examples.
 - ☐ c. a fact that is repeated in several reliable sources.
- 2 One way to avoid overgeneralizations is to
 - ☐ a. provide details and examples.
 - ☐ b. make broad statements that seem to be true.
 - ☐ c. delete words that add detail.
- 3 Which words help avoid overgeneralizations?
 - ☐ a. all, everybody, everyone
 - ☐ b. many, some, often
 - ☐ c. always, never, is
- 4 Choose the word that makes this an overgeneralization: *Violent lyrics in music are a concern for all parents around the world.*
 - ☐ a. violent
 - ☐ b. music
 - ☐ c. all
- 5 Choose the word that makes this an overgeneralization: *Despite the fact that some people are opposed to the band's lyrics, everyone wants to go to the concert.*
 - ☐ a. everyone
 - ☐ b. opposed
 - ☐ c. some
- 6 Choose the best correction for this overgeneralization: *Parents hate violent lyrics in music.*
 - ☐ a. All parents are concerned about violent lyrics in rap music.
 - ☐ b. Parents in the Stop Violence group are opposed to violent lyrics in music.
 - ☐ c. People with young children dislike song lyrics.
- 7 Choose the best correction for this overgeneralization: *Everyone wanted to go to the concert, but no parents approved of the band.*
 - ☐ a. All teenagers wanted to go to the concert, but no parents approved of the band.
 - ☐ b. Most teenagers wanted to go to the concert, but parents did not approve of the band.
 - ☐ c. Many teenagers wanted to go to the concert, but very few of their parents approved of the band.
- 8 Choose the sentence that makes an overgeneralization.
 - ☐ a. Some parents objected to Ozzy Osbourne's music in the 1980s.
 - ☐ b. In the 1980s, Ozzy Osbourne had a large number of teenage fans.
 - ☐ c. In the 1980s, everyone liked Ozzy Osbourne's music.
- 9 Choose the sentence that makes an overgeneralization.
 - ☐ a. Music poses a threat to children and must be labeled with warnings.
 - ☐ b. The Federal Communications Commission created labeling guidelines for CDs with explicit lyrics.
 - ☐ c. Because some music is explicit, the CDs contain warning labels.
- 10 Choose the sentence that makes an overgeneralization.
 - ☐ a. Tipper Gore and Susan Baker cofounded the PMRC in 1985.
 - ☐ b. It is evident that no woman in the PMRC ever listened to music.
 - ☐ c. The PMRC encouraged the use of warning labels on CDs with explicit lyrics.