

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.