Framing the inquiry
See written report

Locating and processing information and **Evaluating the reliability and usefulness of selected information** *(sources 6 & 7 not included in this exemplar)*

Sources (2)	Question 1: Does reality tv reflect real life? (2)	Question 2: Is reality TV harmful? (2)	Reliable/useful? Why/why not? (3)
"how reality tv fakes it" by James Poniewozik. www.time.com Jan 29th 2006, Time magazine (printed)	James states that the producers of a show 'the Dating Experiment' asked a contestant who their favorite celeb was. She said she really loved Adam Sandler. In the editing room they spliced our Adam's name and replaced it with her saying another contestant's name. This is called using frankenbites.	"real people who have to carry their fake reputations into their real lives."	yes: part of the Time magazine group. Have a reputation for quality journalism.
"Trade secrets: Behind the scenes of reality television." Jobs.aol.com by Bill Burman. April, 2010. (printed)	"sometimes when you see a reality show participant talking straight into the cameras, interview sytle, they aren't even talking about anything remotely related to what's happening at that moment on the show."		Useful. It is through a news site so reliable.
"does reality TV distort how young viewers perceive life?" cq researcherblog.blogspot.co.nz by Marryann Haggerty. Aug, 2010. (Printed).		"and what the vast body or research indicates is that kids who are exposed to higher levels of violence tend to behave more violently." "Because kids are seeing people close to their own age behaving a certain way on these reality programs, they tend to accept that that's normative behavior."	Reliable and useful. It is research and published.
"The real effects of reality TV" www.usatodayeducate.com by Micki Fahner. April, 2012. (printed)		Dr Peter Christenson said, "while the shows did seem to inspire healthier behavior in some viewers, there was a lot of emphasis placed on superficiality. Something, which over time, he said, may have an effect on viewers' body image and self esteem." Dr Brad Gorham said, "All tv shows, not just reality shows, help construct scenarios that demonstrate how some behaviors will be rewarded or punished."	Reliable and useful. news site. Gives expert opinion based on evidence.
"Combating the negative impacts of reality tv on girls sense of self" by Jamshid Ghazi Akar. May 2012.		"It communicates the idea to girls that you can have no true girlfriends because your only goal in life is to find a man, and therefore every other woman is a potential love rival and therefore you can have no true female friendships." "of girls surveyed, regular reality tv viewers differ dramatically from non-viewing peers in their expectations of peer relationships, their overall self-image, and their understanding of how the world works."	Useful. Strong bias, probably has lots of omitted info.

Forming developed conclusions

In class we have been studying a range a texts that deal with the topic of deception and manipulation. For this paper we are researching reality shows and their effect of teens. I wanted to find out if reality TV shows a good depiction of real life and if they are harmful to viewers. The questions I chose to use were: Does reality television reflect real life? And is reality TV harmful? (1)

Does reality TV reflect real life? The article 'Trade secrets: behind the scenes of reality television' written by Bill Burman who is a freelance writer and has worked on numerous reality shows (3) states in an article for http://jobs.aol.com1 "sometimes when you see a reality show participant talk straight into the camera, interview style, they aren't even talking about anything remotely related to what's happening at that moment on the show" which is related to the article 'How reality TV fakes it' written by James Poniewozik for www.time.com2 which Poniewozik states the producers of a show 'The Dating Experiment' asked a contestant who their favourite celeb was. She said she really loved Adam Sandler. They asked her this because she disliked one of the contestants but that wasn't what they wanted to hear so in the editing room they spliced out her saying Adam Sandler and replaced it with her saying the contestant's name. These articles back up my hypothesis that reality television doesn't show a true depiction of reality. Further evidence of this comes from the article 'How reality TV works' from the site http://electronics.howstuffworks.com3 which states that a reality shows segment producer or story editor usually assemble storyboards and shooting scripts, important tools for shaping the direction of the show. But if reality television only showed real life events, such crew wouldn't be necessary and there wouldn't be such a thing called 'frankenbites' (4)which is where they take a scene and change the sound to suit what they are trying to portray. One final blow to the reality television industry comes from the executive producer of the shows 'The Bachelor' and 'The Bachelorette' Mike Fleiss (3), who confirms that many reality shows are rigged. Fleiss then goes on to say "It's not completely fake but the best moments of those shows are usually orchestrated,' which was published on www.edmontonjournal.com4 by Bill Graveland.

 These articles all relate to my first question and back up my hypothesis that reality television doesn't depict real life. While watching these shows we should remember that they are made purely for entertainment and anything that is said or happens on the shows should be taken with a grain of salt because it may not reflect what has actually happened or be put out of context. But being put in the category of "reality" tv. can and does cause confusion for some because they believe that with the title of reality, they are seeing raw, firsthand footage of what actually happens in others' lives.(4)

Is reality television harmful? It could go both ways, because if you know that what you're watching isn't a real reflection of real life and that it's purely for entertainment then it's less likely to be harmful. (4)But some evidence suggesting that it may be harmful comes from the same article from www.time.crn2. Poniewozik writes "The problem is that makers of reality TV have the power to imply or outright fabricate things about real people who have to carry their fake reputations into their real lives." This would suggest that it's harmful for the people who star in such shows, and for their family's too because they are possibly contractually obliged to pretend that who they are on the show is who they also are in real life. This could lead to contestants having personality or social type disorders. (4) The next article 'Does reality TV distort how young viewers perceive life?' written by Marryann Haggerty for http://cgresearcherblog.blogspot.co.nz5 states that "what the vast body of research indicates is that kids who are exposed to higher levels of violence tend to behave more violently" and "Kids who are exposed to higher levels of sex in the media tend to become sexually active earlier in life than peers with less exposure." Haggerty then says "Because kids are seeing people close to their own age behaving a certain way on these reality programs, they tend to accept that that's normative behaviour." Shows like 'Jersey Shore' and 'Jordy Shore' would be good examples of these types of behaviours. And I, myself see these types of behaviours and superficiality in my age group.(4) Another example of harm caused by such shows is written by Micki Fahner for www.usatodayeducate.com6 which states "It seems that reality show directors and producers are not looking to cast whole, complete people. They're casting types, and that leads to stereotyping" an example of this would be 'Jersey Shore' and their casting of "Guido" type people. The article then goes on to say "many reality programs demonstrate behaviour, but never show the characters facing the results of their actions." Jersey Shore can also be used for this example as they never show the reactions of their parents in relation to their drunken behaviour. Which is something that today's age see very little of. What we need to be doing is finding out what the youth are viewing the most (which from the articles I have read, points to mostly reality shows) and demonstrate that there will be consequences to negative actions and behaviours, if we are to have a more wholesome, morally and ethically accepted society. (4)

My last article written by Jamshid Ghazi Askar for the American news site www.desertnews.com7 talks about the negative effects reality shows can have on females. Askar says "It [reality shows] communicates the idea to girls that you can have no true girlfriends because your only goal in life is to find a man, and therefore every other woman is a potential love rival and therefore you can have no true female friendships." He then goes on to saying 'of girls surveyed, regular reality TV viewers differ dramatically from non-viewing peers in their expectations of peer relationships, their overall self-image and their understanding of how the world works." Which I can relate to as I prefer my boyfriend to have male friends than female due to the possible threat a female friend could cause. (4)

So to summarise, there is potential for reality television to cause harm. But if we teach our youth that all is not what it may seem on reality shows and that they are purely made for entertainment, we may start to have a media savvy generation who realise that the actions and behaviours demonstrated on such shows shouldn't be accepted or mirrored in real life. (4)

References
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