

Read the following text and answer the questions.

REALITY TV HAS GONE TOO FAR

This past week, Jeremy Peters of the New York Times wrote an article called "When Reality TV Gets Too Real". The article explored where and when producers of dangerous reality programs should protect participants. Jeremy Peters particularly focused on the documentary series "Intervention," which is a compelling program about addiction.

Peters wrote about an "intervention" episode featuring Pam, an alcoholic who insisted on driving her car after drinking vodka. In the episode, the producers said: "You have had a lot to drink. Do you want one of us to drive?" Pam responded, "No. I can drive. I can drive." According to the New York Times, she then got into her car and drove off. The camera crew followed, filming her as she tried to keep her car between the lines.

I can also remember another example from "Big Brother", Justin Sebik, a 26-year-old bartender from New Jersey was expelled from the House on Day 10 because he threatened others and held a knife to the throat of another participant after a night of heavy drinking. Most contestants were asleep at the time and only learned of the incident the next day. The most striking part is that Justin had a criminal record and the producers knew it. Fortunately, it was only a threat and nobody got hurt.

I'm not a snob when it comes to reality shows. My wife and I watch some of them every week but the examples mentioned above are simply too much. In my opinion, people like Pam or like Justin shouldn't be on television. They should be in a mental institution or in a place where they can get help. Also, in my view, the behaviour of the TV Channels should be severely punished. In the case of Pam nothing happened and she arrived home safely but, what if she had hit another car and killed a mother and a small child?

Unfortunately, the money is too good for some producers who don't mind risking the lives of people if they increase their audience. I sometimes wonder how some of these people sleep at night. However, I have to say that all reality shows are not the same, and all the reality show producers aren't ambitious people who provoke dangerous conflicts among participants in order to make money.

1. Are the following statements **TRUE** or **FALSE**? Copy from the text the lines that support your answer (5 points, 1 point each).

- a. The article in the New York Times mainly talked about the programme called "Intervention"
- b. Pam didn't drive her car because she was drunk.
- c. Justin Sebik had drunk too much the night before the "knife incident".
- d. The Producers of Big Brother didn't know that Justin Sebik had been a criminal.
- e. The author never watches reality shows.

2. Give short answers to these questions about the text (5 points, 1 point each).

- a. What is the documentary series "Intervention" about?
- b. What did the camera crew do when Pam started to drive?
- c. Why was Justin Sebik expelled from the House?
- d. What were most of the participants in Big Brother doing when the "knife incident" happened?
- e. According to the author of the text, where should Pam and Justin be?

3. Choose the best meaning for the following words or groups of words which appear in the text (5 points, 1 point each).

- 1. dangerous a. risky b. safe c. unharmed
- 2. keep a. maintain b. stop c. reach
- 3. striking a. happy b. annoying c. surprising
- 4. help a. arrested b. aid c. money
- 5. severely a. seriously b. softly c. mainly

4. Translate the last paragraph into Spanish (5 points).

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