Pros and cons: Can celebrities be role models?

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Stuttgart - Do rich, beautiful, famous and powerful people set a good example?

Are celebrities role models? No!

A role model should behave in an exemplary way. For example, they should do good and look after other people. But which celebrities do this? And what do we really know about the people the world thinks we know? What is a facade, what is behind it?

Apart from a few exceptions, what we see of them is the following: they earn money out of self-interest, donate small amounts of it at best, in order to appear as „benefactors" to their fans. It seems to be part of the image of many pop stars and actors that they are addicted to drugs or alcohol, or that they behave badly in public.

Celebrities are seen as perfect, and young people especially suffer as they try to be like them. For example, many young girls have models as role models and want to have their measurements and bodies. This can lead to anorexia.

First of all, celebrities are people who live far away from us, about whom we know nothing except what we hear about them in the media. We don't know them, we don't know the character behind the facade. And this lack of knowledge is no basis for seeing someone as a role model.

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1 ✎ Below is a list of German words. Your task is to **find the corresponding English words in the text and match them up.** Write the English words next to their German equivalents.

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	vorbildlich
	Ausnahme
	spenden
	Wohltäter
	süchtig
	leiden
	Magersucht

② **Outline the main message** of the text „Pros and cons: Can celebrities be role models?" in **3-4 sentences**.

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Appearance vs. Reality - The Dark Side of Role Models

> 🖉 **Instructions:**

① **Role model selection**

- Choose a role model that a member of your group presented in the last lesson.

② **Research task:**

- **Research the possible dark sides, controversies or misrepresentations of your chosen role model.**

- Use the Internet to gather information.

- Look for articles, interviews, documentaries and reliable sources that discuss your role model.

③ **Guiding questions:**

- Has the role model ever made mistakes?

- Are there any scandals or controversies associated with the role model?

- Is there any evidence that the public image of the role model does not reflect reality?

④ **Analyse your findings:**

- Discuss your findings as a group and identify key points that highlight the discrepancies between the public image of the role model and the reality.

⑤ **Prepare a presentation (5-7 minutes):**

- Include the positive aspects from your previous presentation and explain why you chose this person as a role model in the first place.

- Summarise your findings on 'the dark side of your role model'.

- What did you learn about the reality behind the public image of your role model?

- Include key points and examples to support your analysis.

> 🖉 **Use cards**

⑥ **Present to the class:**

- Share your findings with the class.

- Be prepared to answer questions and engage in a discussion about your role model.