



# REVIEWS AND COMMENTARY

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY**

This activity focuses on issues of balance and subjectivity that are embedded in commentary and review, as well as being a good scripting exercise.

## **AIM OF THE ACTIVITY**

To be able to write reviews of cultural products and events  
To gain knowledge of the specific characteristics of a commentary

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

After this activity, learners will know about:  
The specifics of a review and commentary  
The process of writing a review  
The specific characteristics of reviews and commentaries within the context of radio  
Composing a review

## **EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS REQUIRED**

Trainers need to be very clear and diplomatic when approaching feedback on the reviews with participants.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE, SETTING, RESOURCES**

## **LENGTH**

about 4 hours, though some of the work will be prepared by participants in advance to the session.

## **MATERIALS**

Paper and pens

## **DESCRIPTION**

## **HOW THE ACTIVITY SHOULD TAKE PLACE**

The trainer should inform the participants that they should write the first version of their review at home. Every participant will bring his/her draft version of the review to a consultation session with the trainer in groups of three. During this session each participant's review will be analysed thoroughly and commented on by the instructor individually while the other two participants listen and learn from his/her mistakes. His/her mistakes will be clearly pointed out and instructions will be given on how to improve his/her work. The

participants will present their reviews prepared during the previous days. Everyone will read his/her work aloud. The other participants and the instructor will provide feedback for each review with regards to the criteria laid down during the previous activities. This activity will give the participants an idea of what a commentary is. It is not the goal of this training to enable the participants to write a commentary as it is one of the most demanding journalistic forms. The goal of this activity is to become conscious of one's subjectivity which has an influence over the work of a radio broadcaster. The instructor will give an example of an event of great interest. The participants will have 40 minutes to write a commentary on it lasting 1-2 minutes. They will then present the result of their work. The criteria for its evaluation should be defined by the group.

### **RECOMMENDED MAX. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND TRAINEES TO TRAINERS RATIO**

1 to 10 1 to 4 for Vision impaired/Blind participants and trainees with learning difficulties.

### **RISK AND POSSIBLE ADAPTATION**

Try to simplify the activity for trainees with learning difficulties. Get them to write a review about a song or a film or TV series that would interest them. Vision impaired/blind trainees might need to e-mail their review in advance and it might take longer for them to read them in public. Offer the possibility to have a sighted person to read it for them if they so wish.

### **VARIATIONS**

### **TIPS FOR TRAINERS**

### **ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION**

Analysis and evaluation is built up in the activity

### **SCHEDULING**

At any time during the training