

# Read. Think. Explain.

In trying to understand an article, it's important to read through it carefully and thoughtfully, focusing on the words the author chose *and* thinking about the article's big ideas. In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about *The Original Amateur Hour* and *American Idol* to understand how these talent-search programs are alike and how they are different.

**Directions:** Answer the questions below, using information and details from the article to back up your ideas.

1. *The Original Amateur Hour* aired for 35 years. What do you think made it so popular?  
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2. Would you consider *The Original Amateur Hour* and *American Idol* more similar or more different? Why?  
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3. What stars have been discovered on talent-search shows? Do you think these people would have become stars if it weren't for the shows? Why or why not?  
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4. In what ways do shows like *The Original Amateur Hour* and *American Idol* convey hope and excitement to people?  
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5. Given the opportunity, would you compete in an amateur talent contest? Why or why not? What would your talent be?  
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