

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 13: Thinking Critically

**Discuss the answers to these questions in groups or with a classmate and use complete sentences in your answers. Be specific:**

1. In her first paragraph, King says, “The truth is that we are obsessed with celebrities.” Obviously, she does not mean every single American, so who are “we”? Do you think that her claim is a fair statement? Why or why not?
2. Deborah King uses comparisons several times in her article. Comparisons can show both similarities and differences.
  - a. In paragraph 6, she compares us to “Roman spectators” of ancient times who watched the gladiators fight to the death in the ring. Is she saying that we are similar to Roman spectators or are we different? In what way?
  - b. In paragraph 10, she compares Babe Ruth, a famous baseball player who played from 1914 to 1935, to celebrities like Mel Gibson and Winona Ryder of today. Is King emphasizing how they are similar to Babe Ruth or different? In what way?
3. Several times King mentions that, as much as we are “obsessed” by celebrities, we also like to see them fail. Find at least two spots in the article where she mentions this. Why, according to King, do we enjoy watching celebrities fail?
4. As you noticed, King spends several paragraphs discussing the actor Heath Ledger. Explain her purpose for this example in one sentence:

5. King subtitles her last section “The Mirror Effect”; however, she does not use the word “mirror” in the paragraphs that follow. Explain what you think the “mirror effect” of celebrity-watching is. What word in paragraph 2 indicates that she is talking about the mirror effect there as well?
  
6. What does King say in the article that proves she is not completely against the idea of watching celebrities? Find at least 2 spots in the article that show this.
  
7. Sometimes people state ideas indirectly. For example, during a visit from a friend you may say, “I’m tired.” You may be indirectly saying (implying) that you want your friend to go home. Authors also imply ideas in their writing. For example, in paragraph 4, King implies that other people bear part of the blame for the paparazzi who stalk celebrities. Who are those other people? (She doesn’t use the word “blame,” but we get the idea.) Explain how you know this.