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### The Types of Reality Shows

These days, there are countless reality television shows airing on countless TV networks. To some people, these reality shows might all blend together. However, not all of these shows are the same. There are four basic types of reality shows: the dating reality, the unusual family reality, the gaming reality, and the culture fusion reality.

One of the most common types of reality shows today is the dating reality. These shows usually take one person and present him or her with a certain number of possible mates to choose from. On each show, the bachelor or bachelorette eliminates a certain number of contestants. At first, because of time limitations, the bachelor or bachelorette will most likely base eliminations on beauty and sex appeal. However, when the number of contestants dwindles and there is more available time, the bachelor or bachelorette may look deeper into the hearts of the contestants and then try to test whether certain contestants will actually follow through with a relationship. This type of speed dating usually does not result in a relationship that lasts more than a month after the show is filmed. One example of this is when *The Bachelor* contestant Becca was chosen by bachelor Arie. He proposed to her in the final episode of the season, but before the "After the Final Rose" episode, Arie decided he had made a mistake. When he broke up with Becca, the cameras were rolling so that all their fans could see the breakup. This goes to show that speed dating, especially on television, is not the way to go when looking for a mate.

Another type of reality show is the unusual family reality show. On these reality shows,

a camera crew follows all the members of a particular family around, filming their daily routines and activities. These shows are usually aired for the purpose of showing the public that these families can make their unusual lives work. However, this type of reality show usually lays a curse upon the family that is being followed because of the negative publicity that follows the featured family. For instance, the TLC show *19 Kids and Counting* featured the Duggar family, who had nineteen children. After publicity followed this family, one of their children's reputations was ruined when his secrets were exposed. These kinds of shows draw in viewers because the American public wants to believe that these families, who have become celebrities being watched by millions of viewers, are real people with real family situations. However, when these families display their lives on national television, they often show the audience a different side of the family than what the audience expected to see.

The next type of reality show is the gaming reality show. This type of reality show is a little less dramatic. On gaming reality shows, contestants try to win various challenges in order to stay in the game and win a grand prize. Usually, a person or team of persons is eliminated on each episode of the show. At the end, the last team or person standing will take home a grand prize. Some competitors will resort to anything in order to stay in the game until the end. This might include alliances between contestants, fake relationships between contestants, and betrayal of others. These kinds of competitors want to win the game no matter what the cost of winning is. One example of this is, when on the CBS show *Big Brother All Stars*, contestant Mike Boogie pretended to have alliances with other contestants, such as Janelle, Danielle, George, and Erica. However, he and his real ally, Will, were plotting against every one of the other cast members. Mike even went as low as to pretend to love Erica. In the end, he betrayed her as he had all of the others. He even confessed to the cameras that every one of his alliances and

relationships was fake, except, of course, his relationship with Will. This is a prime example of how, although a contestant may win the prize, he or she may hurt many people on the way to the top.

One last type of reality show is the culture fusion reality. With culture fusion shows, a network puts several people in close quarters. These people are usually from different backgrounds. They may differ in sex, race, culture, and sexual orientation. The purpose of culture fusion shows is to create conflict, sexual attraction, and even friendships between housemates. One example of a culture fusion show is *The Real World* on MTV. MTV usually takes about seven young adults and houses them in an extravagant house in a random city. At some point during the show, the contestants will have to work together in order to make a living. Working together, living together, and doing almost everything together will take a toll upon one's relationships with others. This is why *The Real World* roommates are known for their constant fighting. However, they are also known for their frank displays of sexual attraction to others. This, again, is what will draw in viewers.

Although there are numerous reality shows out there in TV land, it is sometimes hard to see the purpose in some of them. However, these shows are produced mainly to draw in viewers by using conflict, sex, and competition. As a result, the dating reality, family reality, gaming reality, and culture fusion reality all make up today's most popular type of television show: the reality show.