Unit 7 — Mediation: A German Feature Article — Teacher copy

Track E · Klasse 10 · Niveau E

Niveau E

1. Vocabulary

Match each item to its meaning or use it in a sentence.

Term	Your note
to admit	
to claim	
to argue	
to add	
to confirm	
to deny	
to point out	
to stress	
to note	
to concede	
to dismiss	
to maintain	

2. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Source — *German feature article (excerpt)*

Bürgermeisterin Anna Vogel hat ihre kleine Gemeinde, deren Bibliothek seit Jahren geschlossen war, mit einem unkonventionellen Plan zurück auf die Karte gebracht. Statt auf große Zuschüsse zu warten, organisierte sie eine Reihe von Sonntags-Workshops, in denen Bewohner gespendete Bücher sortierten und Regale bauten. "Ich habe nicht erwartet, dass es funktioniert," gab Vogel zu, "aber die Leute kamen zuverlässig." Die neue Bibliothek wurde nach acht Monaten eröffnet. Kritiker werfen ihr vor, das Modell sei nicht skalierbar.

Mediation — feature-article moves

Voice — keep the speaker's voice via reported speech with the right verb (*admitted, claimed, added, argued*). *Register* — match the addressee. A peer-message drops the *Bürgermeisterin* honorifics; a public-admin reader keeps role + name. *Hedge* — preserve the journalist's hedging (*Critics argue* …) without inventing certainty.

Reporting verbs (extended)

to admit, to claim, to argue, to add, to confirm, to deny, to point out, to stress, to note, to concede, to dismiss, to maintain.

3. Practise

Niveau E — controlled

1. Match German verb → English: zugeben → ?, behaupten → ?, hinzufügen → ?, abstreiten → ?
2. Choose the most accurate verb for: *Vogel said: 'I didn't expect it to work, but people came.'*

Niveau E — productive

3. Build a 6-sentence English mediation of the source above.

4. Your turn

Mediation, 8 sentences. Read the German source above. Write 8 English sentences for an English-speaking public-administration student. Preserve voice + use 5 reporting verbs.

Sample

Hi Jordan, here's the gist of that feature on small-town public administration. Mayor Anna Vogel rebuilt her town's library — closed for years — with a near-zero budget. Rather than waiting for grants, she organised a series of Sunday workshops in which residents sorted donated books and built shelves themselves. Vogel admitted that she hadn't expected the plan to work; she added, with some surprise, that people had shown up reliably. The library opened eight months later. Critics argue, however, that the model is not scalable beyond small towns. The article stresses that Vogel doesn't claim it is — only that it worked here. The reporting tone is admiring but cautious.

5. Further reading / listening

- Goethe-Institut — Sprachmittlungs-Beispielaufgaben Oberstufe.
- The Atlantic — *CityLab* features for register comparison.

6. Teacher answer key

Controlled. 1. admit / claim / add / deny.

2. *admitted* (it carries the surprise that *said* would lose).

Productive. 3. Open.