

Unit 11 Reading

Should Government Sponsor the Arts?

<Debate>

Moderator: Today's topic for the debate teams of Central High School and Western High School is this one: Be it resolved, that government should provide sponsorship of the arts. Central High is taking the Affirmative, which has first response, and Western High will take the Negative. This debate is being broadcast over local public radio by Central High's student DJs.

Affirmative: Without government subsidies, arts such as regional dance companies, local playhouses, and art institutes face **stark** and unpleasant futures. Museums will be unable to maintain their artistic **integrity** if they have to **placate** wealthy donors who possess a merely **superficial** knowledge of art—or no knowledge at all. Artists could not afford to take the risks that come with new and innovative art forms, and cultural and societal decline will be the inevitable result. Art is the daughter of freedom, and a country should be proud to support it.

Negative: There are many **potent** arguments against government sponsorship of the arts. Our national test scores are far lower than those of other countries with **exemplary** education systems. Government cannot ignore the fact that schools need more funds for math and science programs. It is wrong to take tax money from where it is desperately needed—to fund extra classes and school lunches—and fritter it away on elitist pastimes.

Affirmative: It is difficult to **fathom** what would happen if government withdrew its support. One would have to be **clairvoyant** to foresee all of the consequences. No doubt, museums would have to charge admissions. The opposing side **alluded** to children on school lunches, and those same children might never go to a museum because of the cost. Our shared wealth of culture and beauty would be shut off to the average person—a clear disadvantage to the very people the opposing side wishes to support.

Negative: There are dangers inherent in government subsidies for the arts—and not just the fact that the money might support projects some citizens find **disreputable** and **obnoxious**. History proves that government patronage can backfire if it is just a **pretext** for making artists promote a regime's goals and values. In the past, artists worked to please the monarchs who paid them and, more recently, subsidized artists disseminated the ideologies of tyrants and dictators.

Furthermore, a responsible government should use its limited funds where the needs and **endemic** problems are greatest. The best arts organizations will sustain themselves through the powers of the free market and, if they cannot, they **misconstrue** their importance to society. One example of such a policy is the case of the local public radio station. When government support for this station was withdrawn, listeners contributed money to the station, and it is still on the airways.

Affirmative: It is easy to recognize the connection between defunding the arts and the disintegration of social structure. Consider the example of one county that cut funding for its after-school choral society. Low-income students who took part in this activity at no cost had higher GPAs than the county's average. When the county defunded the program, 75 percent of the choral members saw their GPAs drop, and some former members were turned down for scholarships they had been on track to receive. This is **conclusive** evidence that supporting the arts is money well spent.

Moderator: Thank you. Our judge will now consider your arguments and determine the winner of today's debate.

Unit 10 Examples

1. In his speech, the candidate **alluded** to his opponent's lack of military experience.
2. Few people are taken in by the **clairvoyant** pronouncements of fortune-tellers and mediums.
3. The police sometimes use **clairvoyants** to help them solve difficult missing-person cases.
4. When they weighed all the evidence in the case, the members of the jury found the testimony of the expert witness to be **conclusive**.
5. Supermarket tabloids frequently publish stories about the **disreputable** behavior of celebrities.
6. Scientists have yet to identify many plant and animal species **endemic** to the rain forests.
7. The Medal of Freedom is awarded to U.S. civilians for **exemplary** achievements in various fields.
8. It is sometimes difficult to **fathom** the motives behind another person's actions.
9. The great passenger liner *Titanic* still lies buried several thousand **fathoms** beneath the ocean's surface.
10. Folklore has it that a serpent's most outstanding trait is **guile**, just as a fox's is craftiness.
11. Scholars debated the **integrity** of the text of a newly discovered poem attributed to Shakespeare.
12. Tour companies regularly provide potential customers with detailed **itineraries** of the trips they offer.
13. Young children sometimes **misconstrue** their parents' motives.
14. The speeches Hitler delivered at the Nuremberg rallies were full of racial slurs and other **obnoxious** language.
15. Sponsors of the controversial bill modified some of its original provisions in order to **placate** the opposition.
16. There was no wind to disturb the **placid** surface of the lake.
17. Music has been called the most **potent** agent for inducing people to forget their differences and live in harmony.

18. I sought some **pretext** for excusing myself from the weekly staff meeting I did not want to attend.
19. Dentists commonly use various kinds of braces to correct the alignment of teeth that **protrude** or are crooked.
20. Both Germany and Japan paid **reparations** to Britain, France, and the United States after WWII.
21. Many a young idealist has found it difficult to accept the **stark** realities of life.
22. By the end of his brief reign, the Roman emperor Caligula was clearly **stark** raving mad.
23. A **superficial** analysis of a complex problem is not likely to produce a viable or long-lasting solution.

Unit 11 Choosing the Right Word

1. Tom Sawyer used **guile** to get the other boys to do his work by convincing them that whitewashing a fence was fun.
2. Do not be taken in by any **superficial** resemblances between their half-baked ideas and the sensible program we proposed.
3. Mother was as upset as any of us, but she managed to conceal her fears so that she looked positively **placid**.
4. If the British government had made a sincere effort to **placate** the colonists, would the American Revolution have occurred?
5. I find no one more **obnoxious** than a person who insists on talking instead of listening to the brilliant and important things I have to say.
6. When I said you were flying too close to the sun, I was **alluding** to the myth about Daedalus and Icarus.
7. Is it any wonder that your parents are worried, knowing that you are associating with such a **disreputable** group of people?
8. Modern scientists use all kinds of high-tech gadgetry to **fathom** the depths of the ocean.
9. Why not include Mount Vernon in the **itinerary** of our spring vacation?
10. The children cut holes in their paper bag masks to allow for their **protruding** noses.
11. People with true **integrity** practice their high moral values daily and work to improve their characters.
12. The spectacular remains of that brilliant period stand in **stark** contrast to the poverty of archaeological finds from previous eras.
13. Although most of us cannot hope to match Mother Teresa's pure idealism, we may regard her noble life as inspiring and **exemplary**.
14. In times of crisis, the utmost care must be taken to prevent ordinary military maneuvers from being **misconstrued** as hostile acts.
15. Though all the lights were on, the restaurant refused to serve us, using the **pretext** that it was closed for the evening.

16. Some people maintain that intelligent life must exist elsewhere in the universe, but I firmly believe that it is **endemic** to Earth.
17. The agency was created for the sole purpose of providing **reparation** to victims of human rights violations.
18. The prospect of extremely high starting salaries is a **potent** argument for pursuing a career in computer science.
19. It is all very well for science fiction writers to speculate, but is there any **conclusive** evidence that UFOs exist?
20. Marge produced a convenient headache as her **pretext** for having to leave early.
21. A candidate for the highest office in the land should be, above all, a person of unshakable **integrity**.
22. Instead of **alluding** so often to your own achievements and successes, why not wait for other people to mention them?
23. In that neighborhood of small homes, a few massive apartment buildings **protrude** like giants set down in a community of dwarfs.
24. With some psychics it is difficult to tell where the **clairvoyant** leaves off and the con artist begins.
25. Most of his paintings portray **stark** and barren desert landscapes.

Unit 11 Synonyms

1. failed to **comprehend** the severity of the situation: **fathom**
2. deliberately **mistook** my words: **misconstrued**
3. a hectic **agenda** with no time for relaxation: **itinerary**
4. signs that **obtrude** from the front of the building: **protrude**
5. **reimbursement** for the destruction of property: **reparation**
6. **hinted at** the existence of embarrassing secrets: **alluded**
7. could find no plausible **justification** to stay: **pretext**
8. his **unperturbed** and reassuring manner: **placid**
9. an advantage gained by **duplicity**: **guile**
10. shellfish **widespread** at the cape: **endemic**

Unit 11 Antonyms

1. **wrongs** inflicted during a conflict: **reparation**
2. listed **frankness** as a desirable quality: **guile**
3. his **tumultuous** feelings about the reunion: **placid**
4. **spontaneous and unplanned trip**: **itinerary**
5. look for nails and screws that **recede**: **protrude**

Unit 11 Completing the Sentence

1. Sherlock Holmes assured Dr. Watson that it was simple deduction, not some **clairvoyant** faculty, that led him to the document's hiding place.
2. I selected them as my business partners not only because I respect their ability but also because I have unlimited confidence in their character and **integrity**.
3. Although the cut on my arm was bleeding quite heavily, it proved to be quite **superficial** and required only a tight bandage.
4. Their idea of a(n) **exemplary** student is someone so perfect in so many ways that he or she would be too good to exist.
5. We spent many pleasant hours poring over all kinds of maps and guidebooks, planning the **itinerary** for our trip across the United States.
6. In 1722, Daniel Defoe published his famous account of the **disreputable** history of Moll Flanders.
7. The tapes of the conversations were regarded as **conclusive** proof that the official had been aware of the crime.
8. Legally a defendant is innocent until proven guilty, so do not **misconstrue** a refusal to testify as an admission of guilt.
9. When we consider the **stark** misery of the last years of his life, we must conclude that he paid in full for all his offenses.
10. Phyllis was too polite to mention John's crude behavior at the party, but she certainly **alluded** to it when she spoke of "unnecessary unpleasantness."
11. America's most **potent** weapon in the struggle for world influence is its great tradition of democracy and freedom.
12. His skillful use of flattery and double-talk to persuade us to agree to his scheme was a typical example of his **guile**.
13. His conceit and his cold disregard of other people's feelings make him utterly **obnoxious**!
14. If you allow your foot to **protrude** into the aisle, someone may trip over it.

15. The man has filed a lawsuit seeking **reparation** payments on behalf of all families who were forced to live in internment camps.
16. Neither misfortunes nor happy events seem to have the slightest effect on my friend's **placid** disposition.
17. Blue jeans, once **endemic** to the cowboys of the American West, are now a familiar part of the whole world's wardrobe.
18. On the **pretext** of delivering a package, the burglar sought to gain entrance to the house.
19. By disregarding the flood of excuses, explanations, and justifications, we were able to **fathom** the true reasons for her actions.
20. It is quite useless to try to **placate** dissatisfied customers who actually enjoy being angry and making complaints.

Unit 11 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. “‘You may as well face the matter,’ said I; ‘you have been caught in the act, and no confession could make your guilt more heinous. If you but make such **reparation** as is in your power, by telling us where the beryls are, all shall be forgiven and forgotten.’”
— “The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet”

To make a reparation is to

- ① offer guidance ② plead guilty ③ **make amends** ④ provide an alibi

2. “For a minute or more the hand, with its writhing fingers, **protruded** out of the floor. Then it was withdrawn as suddenly as it appeared....”
— “The Red-Headed League”

Something that has protruded

- ① lies still ② **juts out** ③ drapes over ④ draws back

3. “‘It’s only Carlo, my mastiff.... Toller lets him loose every night, and God help the trespasser whom he lays his fangs upon. For goodness’ sake don’t you ever on any **pretext** set your foot over the threshold at night, for it’s as much as your life is worth.’”
— “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches”

Another way to say “on any pretext” is

- ① **for any reason** ② on any hunch ③ on any assignment ④ for any reward

4. ““Not only that, but the signature is typewritten. Look at the neat little ‘Hosmer Angel’ at the bottom. There is a date, you see, but no superscription except Leadenhall Street, which is rather vague. The point about the signature is very suggestive—in fact, we may call it **conclusive**.”
- “A Case of Identity”

Proof that is conclusive is NOT

- ① credible ② persuasive ③ irrefutable ④ **disputable**

5. “Beside the couch was a wooden chair, and on the angle of the back hung a very seedy and **disreputable** hard-felt hat, much the worse for wear, and cracked in several places.”
- “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”

An object that is disreputable is

- ① unnecessary ② evident ③ **shabby** ④ obsolete

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Unit 11 Synonyms

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5. look for nails and screws that **recede**: _____

Unit 11 Completing the Sentence

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5. We spent many pleasant hours poring over all kinds of maps and guidebooks, planning the _____ for our trip across the United States.
6. In 1722, Daniel Defoe published his famous account of the _____ history of Moll Flanders.
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14. If you allow your foot to _____ into the aisle, someone may trip over it.
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Unit 11 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

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