
LEVEL 1

An advertisement

Summer is knocking at your door; book your next vacation now. Discount up to 50% off. 4455 Lincoln Boulevard, New York. Free parking outside. We always have the lowest prices – let us organize your next trip and save you money. You can also book your vacation on our website, visit www.xtremeflyers.com.

1. This is an advertisement for a _____.
 - a. travel agency
 - b. finance company
 - c. book store
 - d. car rental agency

An advertisement

I have two White Chinese Geese for sale. They are a year old. One is male and the other is female. They are friendly and communicative, but they do not like my new puppy. They are a happy couple and I do not want to separate them. Please call or text me at 555-528-6954 or email me at simon.white@gmail.com

2. Why does Simon want to sell the geese?
 - a. They do not like the new dog.
 - b. He does not like these geese.
 - c. He wants to separate them.
 - d. They make too much noise.

LEVEL 2

A news article related to crime

A 17-year-old gunman took four hostages in a store on the outskirts of the southern French city of Toulouse, police said. The teen later released all four hostages but remained inside the store. Local state television France 3 reported that the hostage-taker, who was wearing a helmet fitted with a camera, fired three shots in the air and demanded to speak with a negotiator.

The police spokesperson and a security official said it was too early to say the incident was an act of terrorism. The national terrorism prosecutor's office said it is following the situation.

"It's worrying. It all happened so quickly," said neighbour Robert Texier, who expressed surprise at the incident in what he described as a quiet neighbourhood on the banks of the Garonne River. He said the shop has been run for decades by a woman and her daughter who live in the neighbouring building.

3. According to the text, _____.

- a. the man was a member of a terrorist organization
- b. the incident happened in a relatively safe area
- c. the incident was broadcast live on television
- d. the man fired several shots at the police

A news report on a mobile app

Starting as a pilot project next month, Vienna's "Culture Token" will track transit users' movements and their chosen mode of transit across the city via an app. For each car-free kilometer the user travels, the app stores up credits. Once the user has stored up 20 kilograms of carbon savings, possible with about two weeks of car-free commuting, they get a token they can exchange for a ticket to various art venues, including Vienna's most respected concert hall, theater, and contemporary art venues. However, it's still unclear just how large the expanded pool of users will be. Still, promoting greener mobility habits has clear advantages, even in a city that has been successful in increasing the number of passengers using the public transportation system. The project doesn't just offer bonuses for people who avoid cars. It also makes the process of switching to lower-carbon modes more enjoyable and more easily measured.

4. The aim of the project is to encourage people to _____.
- a. visit numerous art venues
 - b. increase their physical activity
 - c. buy transit tickets using an app
 - d. reduce car use in the city

LEVEL 3

From an article about moral grandstanding

The term may be unfamiliar, but most people have experienced moral grandstanding. Examples of moral grandstanding include when a friend makes grand and extreme proclamations on Twitter about their deepest held values regarding climate change, for instance, and when a campaigning politician makes bold – but clearly untrue – ideological claims about immigration. Philosophers coined the phrase to describe the abuse of so-called “moral talk” – an umbrella term encompassing all conversations humans have about our politics, beliefs, values and morals.

Usually, people engage in moral talk to learn from, connect with or persuade someone else. They might say of their decision not to eat any animal products, for example, “I am vegan for environmental and animal rights reasons.”

Moral grandstanding occurs when people use moral talk, instead, to promote themselves or seek status. So a moral grandstander might say, “I am vegan because it is the only moral decision. If you care about the planet, you can’t eat animal products.” For moral grandstanders, conversation is a means to an end – not a free exchange of ideas. A desire for respect from our peers is normal in humans, as are the desires for safety, love and belonging. Social scientists have traced the evolutionary origins of status seeking to prehistoric times. Moral grandstanding, however, is a special kind of status seeking. It implies that someone is using conversations about important or controversial topics solely to get attention or impress others.

5. What is the author’s opinion about moral grandstanding?

- a. It is based on the desire to increase one’s own prestige.
- b. It contributes to one’s personal growth.
- c. It is becoming more common in modern-day societies.
- d. It is essential for creating positive social relationships.

From an opinion column on journalism

That high school journalists are capable of work rivaling that of professionals, and that they have taken the lead in battling a lack of government transparency, should come as no surprise to anyone. Some of the best journalism in America today is coming out of student-run outlets, as demonstrated by the acclaimed investigative reporting of a team at Kansas' Pittsburg High School, who so painstakingly discredited their newly-hired principal's inflated resumé that she was forced to resign.

It may come as more of a surprise to learn that in many ways, this dedication is more the rule than the exception. Student journalists are, increasingly, the information lifeline for their communities. With employment in traditional newsrooms hitting historic lows, down 42% since 1990, the public is more reliant than ever on students to sound the alarm if schools are unsafe or ineffective – or if there's any story unfolding on their campus that could affect their community. Education news now accounts for just 1.4% of the time and space in mainstream media outlets, according to a study by the Brookings Institution. It's up to students to fill that information void -- if their schools will let them.

High schools often nurture the mentality that students have a "civic duty" to say only favorable things about the education they're receiving. "Be true to your school" is a nice enough idea -- but you won't find it in the Constitution. "Citizens will be punished if they question or criticize the government" isn't a sentiment that belongs in any American educational institution. As a lawyer assisting students in censorship cases, I once had a school superintendent in Tennessee tell me that a student's political column was rejected because it "might cause passionate conversations" – as if passionate conversations about politics were a distraction from learning and not central to it.

6. The author feels that students are _____.
- a. reluctant to speak up for their rights
 - b. supported in their writing by professionals
 - c. trying to address information gaps in journalism
 - d. negatively affecting the quality of journalistic work

KEY

1. **A (Travel agency)**
2. **A (They do not like the new dog)**
3. **B (The incident happened in a relatively safe area)**
4. **D (Reduce car use in the city)**
5. **A (It is based on the desire to increase one's own prestige)**
6. **C (Trying to address information gaps in journalism)**