

the ARTICLE (for instructors)

The Chinese Olympics

Politics and the Olympics don't mix, and the success of the Games will be determined by the caliber of the athletes, the competition, and the friendship of the competing countries. The statement came from China's President, Hu Jintao, as he expressed the true meaning and spirit of the Games. In past years during the Cold War, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political squabbles, and refused to allow their athletes to compete. Although there aren't any chances of similar disagreements marring the 2008 Summer Games, Hu was given the opportunity to put a positive spin days before August 8th.

China's president ignored the controversies which have dogged the games during the past months. He ignored the environmental degradation and pollution from which China suffers as it rushes to become an industrial superpower. He ignored the recent terrorist attack which killed sixteen policemen, as well as the threat to target "the most critical point of the Olympics." He ignored lapses in human rights and the strict restrictions China has placed on the media.

As a reminder, however, Hu said to the assembled reporters to respect China's laws and report fairly. The meeting was carefully controlled, as reporters had to submit questions in advance. When one reporter posed a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to promote a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage, something China's government hopes this year's Olympics will also demonstrate.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the ARTICLE (for students)

terrorist	lapses	competing	restrictions	caliber
dogged	squabbles	advance	promote	degradation
posed	demonstrate	assembled	marring	spin

The Chinese Olympics

Politics and the Olympics don't mix, and the success of the Games will be determined by the (a. _____) of the athletes, the competition, and the friendship of the (b. _____) countries. The statement came from China's President, Hu Jintao, as he expressed the true meaning and spirit of the Games. In past years during the Cold War, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political (c. _____), and refused to allow their athletes to compete. Although there aren't any chances of similar disagreements (d. _____) the 2008 Summer Games, Hu was given the opportunity to put a positive (e. _____) days before August 8th.

China's president ignored the controversies which have (f. _____) the games during the past months. He ignored the environmental (g. _____) and pollution from which China suffers as it rushes to become an industrial superpower. He ignored the recent (h. _____) attack which killed sixteen policemen, as well as the threat to target "the most critical point of the Olympics." He ignored (i. _____) in human rights and the strict (j. _____) China has placed on the media.

As a reminder, however, Hu said to the (k. _____) reporters to respect China's laws and report fairly. The meeting was carefully controlled, as reporters had to submit questions in (l. _____). When one reporter (m. _____) a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to (n. _____) a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage, something China's government hopes this year's Olympics will also (o. _____).

STEP ONE

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "the Olympics" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

STEP TWO

Vocabulary match: Match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but be sure to check your English-English dictionary, too.

a.	caliber	q.	damage
b.	squabble	r.	ask
c.	mar	s.	lower
d.	dog	t.	argument
e.	degrade	u.	show
f.	lapse	v.	gather
g.	assemble	w.	decline
h.	pose	x.	ability
i.	promote	y.	follow
j.	demonstrate	z.	publicize

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	marring	caliber	posed	demonstrate	degradation
	promote	lapses	dogged	assembled	squabbles
a.	The success of the Games will be determined by the () of the athletes.				
b.	In past years during the Cold War, nations regularly protested the Olympics due to political ().				
c.	there aren't any chances of similar disagreements () the 2008 Summer Games.				
d.	China's president ignored the controversies which have () the games during the past months.				
e.	He ignored the environmental () and pollution from which China suffers.				
f.	He ignored () in human rights and the strict restrictions China has placed on the media.				
g.	As a reminder, Hu said to the () reporters to respect China's laws and report fairly.				
h.	When one reporter () a question on human rights, Hu didn't respond.				
i.	The purpose of the meeting was to () a friendlier China as it takes its place on the world stage.				
j.	China's government hopes this year's Olympics will also () their new image.				

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases you circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your comprehension.

a.	According to the article, what will determine the success of the Olympics?
b.	What happened at the Olympic Games during the Cold War?
c.	China's president ignored several things. What were they?
d.	According to the article, what was the primary purpose of the meeting?
e.	According to the article, what is the primary purpose of the 2008 Olympics for China?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	What's your opinion or impression of the Olympic Games? Please explain.
c.	What's your opinion or impression of China? Please explain.
d.	If you were the president of China, how would you determine if the Olympics were successful? Please explain.

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.