

**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)**

**The Chinese Olympics**

Politics and the Olympics don't mix, and the success a) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. 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. b) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Hu was given the opportunity to put a positive spin days before August 8th.

c) \_\_\_\_\_. 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." d) \_\_\_\_\_.

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. e) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, 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.

Notes:

### STEP ONE

**Speculate:** Write in the missing word for today's article title: "The Chinese ( )." Why did you choose this word for the blank?

### STEP TWO

**Questions:** Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	In addition to the athletes and their abilities, politics will determine the success of the Olympics.	T / F
b.	According to the article, China's president commented on the problems China has faced.	T / F
c.	There was a terrorist attack in China which killed some police officers.	T / F
d.	Hu told the reporters to follow China's laws and report on the games fairly.	T / F
e.	Hu answered one question on human rights abuses.	T / F

### STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

### STEP FOUR

**Questions:** Answer the questions to check 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:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	What's your opinion or impression of the Olympic Games? Please explain.
b.	What's your opinion or impression of China? Please explain.
c.	Do you agree that the Olympics let China show a new image to the world? And what exactly does this mean?
d.	If you were the president of China, how would you determine if the Olympics were successful? Please explain.