

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

The Art of Economics or the Economics of Art, 1/09/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/arts/jan-june09/artecon_01-09.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the traditional funders of the arts?

2. Why is that money running out?

3. Name at least four states that have cut their arts funding by half or more.

4. Are people attending arts events? Why?

5. Why are ticket sales not enough to fund the arts?

6. How is the Indianapolis Art Museum coping with a drastically slashed budget?

7. How is the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Connecticut coping?

8. Go online and find out how many signers have signed Quincy Jones' petition.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think the arts are important? Why or why not?

2. Do you think the government should pay for arts programs in schools? Why or why not?

3. Currently ticket sales alone cannot pay for most of art programs, would you pay more for your tickets to support the arts? Why or why not?

4. The article talked about some cost cutting measures that operas and theatre troops are using, can you think of any other inventive ways to save money?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.