

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

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

STORY

China Restricts Bad Habits and Free Speech Ahead of Olympics, 04/16/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june08/china_4-16.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What has happened in some locations along the torch relay?
2. Why has the Chinese government relocated some citizens?
3. How do Chinese press freedoms compare to other countries?
4. How does the Chinese government exert control over information on the Internet?
5. How does Beijing plan to reduce air pollution for the games?
6. What are some of the habits the government is trying to get citizens to break?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What do you think is the most important issue the Chinese government needs to address before the games are held (human rights, freedom of press, freedom of speech, pollution, etc.)? Why?

2. President Bush has announced he will not boycott the Beijing Olympics, but several European leaders will not be attending the opening ceremonies. How do you think world leaders should respond to the problems in China? Should there be a boycott? Why or why not?

3. If the Olympics were going to be held in a city near you, what would need to change before they could be held there? Are there any environmental changes you would want to see? Any habits that people should change, or tone down?

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.