

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Olympics Host China Comes Under Fire for Human Rights Concerns

08/05/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec08/china_8-05.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the Olympic organizers hope would happen if they awarded the Games to China?

2. What did China pledge to do if it was awarded the games?

3. What did a recent Amnesty International report say about China?

4. How does China crack down on protesters?

5. What did the U.S. House of Representatives recently do regarding China?

6. How many writers and journalists are currently in prison according to PEN?

7. How do journalists know that China censors the Internet?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think China should have been awarded the Olympic Games? Explain.

2. Chinese officials have said they don't want politics to interfere with the "spirit of the Olympic Games" – what do you think that means? Do you agree?

3. How do governments pressure other governments to change their policies? How do human rights groups and other organizations pressure governments to change? What are the most effective ways to improve freedoms and conditions for residents?

4. What is more important, freedom of speech and press, or stability? What are some cultural or historical factors that influence whether people favor one or the other? Is it a false choice? Can you have freedom of speech and stability? What are the risks?

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.