

Art Meets Change

See how current issues shape what creators make and share.

6.16.B “describe ways in which contemporary issues influence creative expressions; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that shows a contemporary issue influencing a creative expression. In the margin, number the type of influence: 1 for subject or message, 2 for materials or setting, and 3 for audience action.

Creative Responses to Environmental Change

- ① Climate change is a contemporary issue because rising temperatures, stronger heat waves, and changing rainfall affect people today. Creative people often respond by making art, music, stories, and performances. In a coastal town, a student art club created a mural showing homes on high ground and waves near the shore. The mural did not predict an exact future. Instead, it helped neighbors talk about sea-level rise and choices their community could make. The issue shaped the mural's subject and its purpose.
- ② Climate change can also affect the materials artists choose. During a community clean-up, a theater group collected plastic bottles from a riverbank. They turned the bottles into costumes for a play about plastic waste that can clog drains during floods. Using discarded plastic made the costumes visible evidence of an environmental problem, rather than just decoration. The group performed outside near the river, where viewers could connect the setting to the message. The contemporary issue influenced the materials, images, and place of the performance.
- ③ Creative expressions can influence people in return. After the performance, the group invited audience members to write one promise on a paper wave, such as carrying a reusable bottle or joining a clean-up. The paper waves became part of the next show. This response changed the work as it traveled through the community. A contemporary issue may influence what creators say, how they make it, where they share it, and what action they invite. Creative work can inform, question, or bring people together without giving one simple solution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did climate change influence both the subject and the purpose of the student mural?

2 How did the theater group use plastic bottles to strengthen the message of its play?

3 Why did the theater group perform near the river, and how did that location support its message?

4 What did audience members add after the performance, and how did their actions change the creative work?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a contemporary issue that matters in your school or community. Write 4 or 5 sentences describing a creative expression about it and explaining at least two ways the issue would shape the work, such as its message, materials, setting, or audience action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that shows a contemporary issue influencing a creative expression. In the margin, number the type of influence: 1 for subject or message, 2 for materials or setting, and 3 for audience action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did climate change influence both the subject and the purpose of the student mural?	It shaped the mural's subject, sea-level rise near homes, and its purpose, helping neighbors discuss community choices.
2	How did the theater group use plastic bottles to strengthen the message of its play?	The group made costumes from discarded plastic bottles, so the costumes became visible evidence of plastic waste instead of simple decoration.
3	Why did the theater group perform near the river, and how did that location support its message?	The river location helped viewers connect the play's message about plastic waste and flooding to the nearby riverbank.
4	What did audience members add after the performance, and how did their actions change the creative work?	They wrote promises on paper waves. Those waves became part of the next show, so audience responses changed the work.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Food waste is a current issue at our school. I would create a short comic about edible food being thrown away. I would draw it on the back of clean, used paper and post it near the cafeteria trays. At the end, the comic would ask students to take only the food they will eat and share ideas for reducing waste.

Accept answers that accurately connect a current issue to specific choices made by creators, such as message, materials, setting, or audience participation. For Part 3, accept any realistic contemporary issue and creative expression if the student clearly explains at least two influences.