

News Debate: Cashing In



Should kids be paid for doing well in school?

Need money? Then study up! Some cities are offering kids cash for doing well in school. In New York City, some fourth graders will receive up to \$25 this year for every state test they ace. Schools in other states also offer incentives: In one Massachusetts town, kids receive \$25 for perfect attendance. In Dallas, some schools motivate, or encourage, kids by giving students \$2 for every book they read.

Some people say the incentives are a good way to motivate kids to study. Others say paying children to learn is wrong because kids are the ones who benefit from schoolwork. *WR News* student reporters Andrew Jing and Katelyn Vlastaris each took a side.

No!

"Getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing."

Paying kids for getting good grades in school? That's outrageous! Getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing. Students get the benefit from education, so why should we get paid? You don't expect to get paid to eat, do you?

Your teachers and staff have already gone to school and have already gotten their educations. They don't need your good grades. You do!

"It's not like a job. You get good grades for your own good," says student Rolina Luo.

Many important things in life are not necessarily motivated by money. Education is one of them.

Try to do well in school so that you'll have a better shot at being successful in the real world. You shouldn't have to be paid to do that.

Yes!

"If you reward us, it may motivate us to do great in subjects we don't like."

Adults go to work and get paid for their jobs. A kid's job is to go to school. By paying us for doing well in school, you are helping prepare us for the real world. If you give us a toy, we can play with it. If you give us money, however, we can save it or buy something nice. We can even give it to charity. Almost anything is possible!

Student Brett Upperman agrees that kids should be rewarded with money for schoolwork. "Kids need money so we can save it for college. And I want to buy a house someday," says Brett.

If you reward us with money, it may motivate us to do great in subjects we don't like, and then we'll start doing well by ourselves. This could give us a big boost for the rest of our lives.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, how much money do some students receive for perfect attendance?

- A. \$25
- B. The article does not state how much money the students receive.
- C. \$2
- D. \$10

2. How does the author present the information in this article?

- A. The author describes the issue of paying students for doing well in school, then sets forth arguments for and against paying for grades.
- B. The author describes different states in the U.S. that are paying students for schoolwork, and then points out that student reporters took sides on this issue.
- C. The author states that getting good grades in school is what kids are supposed to be doing, then argues that students should work hard in school so they will be successful in the future.
- D. The author proposes that rewarding students will help them do well in subjects they don't like, then compares adults going to work to children going to school.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A. all students in New York City are paid \$25 for good state test scores
- B. it is a bad idea to pay students to do well in school
- C. not all schools pay their students to do well
- D. paying students to do well in school is very effective

4. Read the following sentence:

"Student Brett Upperman agrees that kids should be rewarded with money for schoolwork."

In this sentence the word **rewarded** most nearly means

- A. given another chance to succeed
- B. given poor-quality items
- C. given a strong education
- D. given something for good work

5. What would be another good title for this passage?

- A. The Pros and Cons of Paying Students for Good Grades
- B. Education Benefits You for Life
- C. Money for Grades Equals Gifts to Charity
- D. Paid to Succeed on the Test

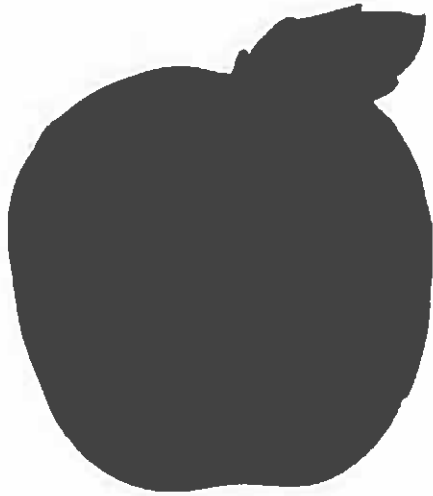
6. How do some schools in the city of Dallas try to motivate students to read?

7. What do you think might make a school more likely to consider paying students? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Some people are against paying kids for good grades _____ they feel it is a student's responsibility to do well on their own.

- A. because
- B. when
- C. and
- D. although

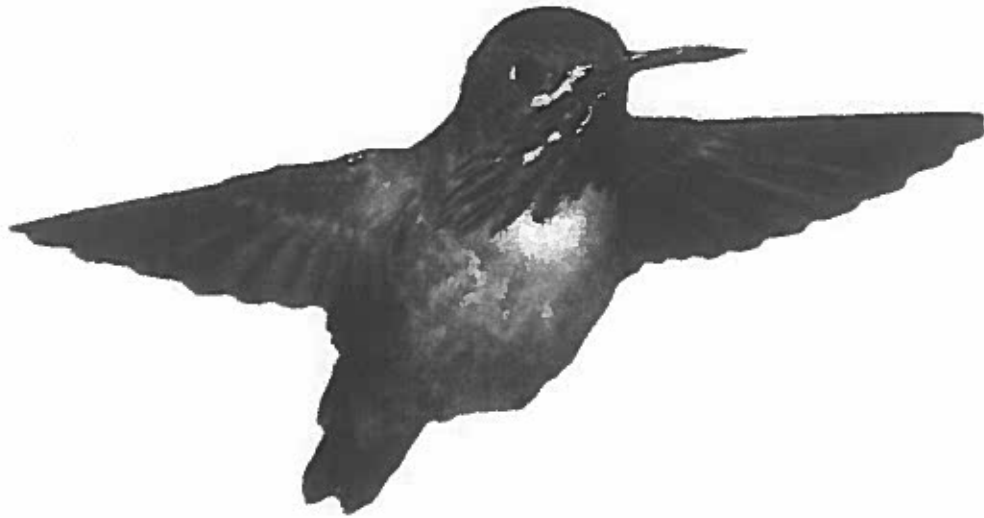
9. Which food item would a person who is motivated to be healthy most likely eat?



10. If someone screamed at you for making a mistake, would that motivate you to try again? Why or why not?

Follow Those Hummingbirds!

This text is provided courtesy of the National Audubon Society.



Richard Pick

Scientists are studying hummingbirds to find out more about how they live and the migration paths they follow. One thing they're concerned about is climate change. Along hummingbirds' migratory routes, different plants bloom just in time for the hungry travelers to grab a meal. What if warmer spring temperatures cause flowers to bloom earlier than usual? The flowers could finish blooming before the hummingbirds arrive. No flowers would mean no nectar. How would that affect the migration of hummingbirds, and even their survival?

Scientists are not the only ones fascinated by these busy birds! Many people attract hummingbirds to their yards and parks by planting flowers hummingbirds like. Others hang up hummingbird feeders. And they're helping with scientific research, too. Across the Americas, many people keep track of hummers they see and report the results to scientists. You can too! Become a citizen scientist by taking part in Audubon's "Hummingbirds at Home" project. Check out this website to find out how you can track, report on, and follow hummingbirds' spring migration: hummingbirdsathome.org

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. When studying hummingbird migration pathways, what are scientists concerned about?

- A. Scientists are concerned about hummingbird feeders.
- B. Scientists are concerned about people planting flowers.
- C. Scientists are concerned about climate change.
- D. Scientists are concerned about the "Hummingbirds at Home" project.

2. What does this text describe?

- A. This text describes the best food to give to a hummingbird, whether it be planting new flowers or putting up new hummingbird feeders.
- B. This text describes the way climate change might affect hummingbird migration paths and what we can do to help.
- C. This text describes the migration paths that hummingbirds have been following for hundreds of years.
- D. This text describes the reasons flowers bloom earlier and the science behind the process.

3. Scientists are not the only ones fascinated by these busy birds!

What evidence from the text supports this statement?

- A. Many people attract hummingbirds to their yards and parks by planting flowers hummingbirds like.
- B. Scientists are studying hummingbirds to find out more about how they live and the migration paths they follow.
- C. One thing scientists are concerned about is climate change.
- D. Along hummingbirds' migratory routes, different plants bloom just in time for the hungry travelers to grab a meal.

4. According to the text, scientists believe that climate change could change the blooming patterns of flowers. Based on the information in the text, what do you think will most likely happen to hummingbirds if this is true?

- A. Nothing will change.
- B. Hummingbirds will stop migrating.
- C. Hummingbirds will become extinct.
- D. Hummingbirds will change their migration paths.

5. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Climate change is making plants bloom at different times.
- B. Climate change is potentially changing the migration routes of hummingbirds through altering blooming schedules.
- C. Scientists enjoy learning about hummingbirds and their migration patterns.
- D. Many people attract hummingbirds to their yards and parks by planting flowers hummingbirds like.

Name _____ Date _____

Fireboats of New York

Have you ever seen a fireboat? What are fireboats, anyway, and what do they do? 13
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Many years ago, as New York City was growing, problems were growing, too. Many goods were shipped out of New York. Many goods were shipped into New York. The ships, docks, and warehouses along the harbor had to be protected from fire. The fire department had to find a way to fight fires there. Their engines were useful only on land. 27
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What could they do? They decided to use fireboats! The very first fireboat used by the Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) was a tugboat rented in 1865 called the *John Fuller*. It could pump 2,000 gallons of water each minute! It took the water directly from the river. 88
102
116
128

The first real fireboat in New York City was the *William F. Havemeyer*. The ship entered service in 1875. It had a wooden hull and could pump 3,000 gallons of water each minute. The *Havemeyer* served New York City until 1901. By that time, people had learned that fireboats with wooden hulls were not such a good idea. Can you guess why? The boats could catch on fire, too! They began making fireboats from steel. 141
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On land, it might take many fire engines to put out a fire. On the water, it usually takes just one fireboat. Fireboats have amazing power! One fireboat can pump about as much water as twenty fire engines! 220
231
241

Fireboats help fight fires on the many waterways of New York. These firefighters save people from burning ships, docks, and warehouses. They save millions of dollars worth of goods, too. They are a very important part of the Fire Department of New York City. 253
263
277
285

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1 Where did the water sprayed by the *John Fuller* come from?

- (A) It came from tanks in the hull of the ship.
- (B) It came from twenty fire engines.
- (C) It was pumped from the river.
- (D) It came from a fire hydrant.

2 What is the meaning of the word *engines* as used below?

The fire department had to find a way to fight fire there. Their engines were useful only on land.

- (F) machines
- (G) fire engines
- (H) railroad locomotives
- (I) Internet search engines

3 How many years passed from the time the FDNY first rented the *John Fuller* until the *Havemeyer* was put into service?

- (A) two years
- (B) ten years
- (C) thirty-six years
- (D) twenty-six years

4 Why did people begin making fireboats with steel hulls instead of wood?

- (F) Steel is lighter than wood.
- (G) Steel is stronger than wood.
- (H) Steel ships are faster than wooden ships.
- (I) Steel is less likely than wood to catch fire.

5 Why does the author describe the *Havemeyer* as *the first real fireboat* in New York City? Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.

Name _____ Date _____

The Golden Runner

One of the greatest Olympic runners ever was Wilma Rudolph. She was fast and graceful. Her long legs seemed to glide along the track. Wilma broke many records. She helped increase interest in women's track events. After her running career, Wilma helped young African Americans train for track and other sports.

Wilma's road to greatness was not easy. She had to overcome many physical problems. Her courageous struggle to compete and win still inspires people today.

As a child, Wilma often became ill. Her left leg was strapped to a metal brace. By the time she was twelve, her leg was strong again. She could walk without the brace. She would finally have a chance to play like other children.

Wilma joined the girls' basketball team at her school. She also found time to run track. She was naturally fast and liked to run. In the summer of 1956, Wilma went to Philadelphia for her first important meet. There she won every race she ran, including two sprints and a relay race.

Wilma was asked to try out for the United States Olympic team. She traveled to the Olympic Games in Australia. She won a bronze medal in the 400-meter relay. She was only sixteen years old.

Four years later, at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Wilma won her first gold medal in the 100-meter race. She won a second in the 200-meter race. In the 400-meter relay, Wilma ran the last leg of the race. She used all her speed to pass two other runners. Rudolph's team won the race by less than a second. With that victory, Wilma became the first American woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympic Games.

Name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

- 1 Why did Wilma have to wear a leg brace as a child?
- (A) She had long legs.
 - (B) She injured her leg running.
 - (C) Illness had left her leg weak.
 - (D) She had been in an automobile accident.
- 2 In what year did Wilma win her FIRST Olympic medal?
- (F) 1952
 - (G) 1956
 - (H) 1958
 - (I) 1960

- 3 What is the meaning of the word *leg* as used below?

In the 400-meter relay, Wilma ran the last leg of the race.

- (A) a slender support of a piece of furniture
 - (B) one part of a pair of pants
 - (C) a lower limb of a person
 - (D) one of several parts
- 4 In the SECOND paragraph, what does the phrase *Wilma's road to greatness* mean?
- (F) The route Wilma flew to Australia.
 - (G) Wilma's physical problems as a child.
 - (H) The track on which Wilma won her gold medals.
 - (I) Wilma's life leading up to her Olympic victories.
- 5 Briefly summarize the events of Wilma Rudolph's life. Write your response on another sheet of paper.