

Join the national conversation!



Word Generation - Unit 3.06

## Focus Words

displace | regime | diminish | stable | estimate

## WEEKLY PASSAGE



Less than a month after the September 11 attacks, the U.S. military began a war in Afghanistan. This country provided a safe place for the terrorists to plan and organize its attack on the United States. Because nearly 3000 people died as a result of 9/11, most of the people in the U.S. supported this war. They believed that military action was the only way to make sure that the terrorists could not plan more attacks against the U.S. More than ten years later, nearly 2000 U.S. troops have died trying to make Afghanistan a **stable** country where terrorists can never plan another attack on the U.S.

In 2003, the United States also went to war in Iraq. Members of the U.S. government claimed that the Iraqi **regime** had weapons of mass destruction that could be used against Americans. Many people in the U.S. were not convinced that these weapons existed and did not support this war. Some people believed that the war in Iraq was more about protecting an oil supply to support the American economy. In the end, the weapons of mass destruction were never found and 4487 members of the military died fighting for this cause.

Some people believe that the U.S. government should only send troops into a war when there is a clear threat to the safety and welfare of its people. They think that American men and women should only be asked to sacrifice their lives if there is a known threat, as was the case after 9/11. They think that wars that are not clearly protecting the safety of the American people are also too costly. They point to the expense of the Iraq war.

According to some **estimates**, the cost of this war to the U.S. government was \$1 trillion dollars. Many Americans think that this money should have been used for domestic issues, like improving American schools.

Other people think that the U.S. should consider military action when the safety of people from other countries is threatened by violent government actions. For example, during much of the time that Americans were fighting in Iraq, people in the Darfur region of Sudan were being murdered and forced to leave their villages by their government. Approximately 2.7 million people were **displaced** by these actions, resulting in nearly 300,000 deaths from disease and starvation. Many Americans thought that U.S. military action in Sudan could have **diminished** the suffering of the Sudanese people. They claim that there was not U.S. military action because this African country offered little economic benefit to the American economy.

What do you think? When should the U.S. government send troops to another region of the world? Should we only get involved when our safety is threatened? Should we commit troops when our economic interests are threatened? Or should we engage in military action when the safety of others is threatened?

# When should the U.S. send troops to other countries?

## FOCUS WORDS OF THE WEEK

**displace** : (verb) to force from home or homeland

FORMS:

---

EXAMPLES OF USE:

---

NOTES:

---

**regime** : (noun) a government in power

FORMS:

---

EXAMPLES OF USE:

---

NOTES:

---

**diminish** : (verb) to make smaller or to seem smaller

FORMS:

---

EXAMPLES OF USE:

---

NOTES:

---

**stable** : (adjective) not easily changed

FORMS:

---

EXAMPLES OF USE:

---

NOTES:

---

**estimate** : (noun) a rough calculation

FORMS:

---

EXAMPLES OF USE:

---

NOTES:

---

# When should the U.S. send troops to other countries?

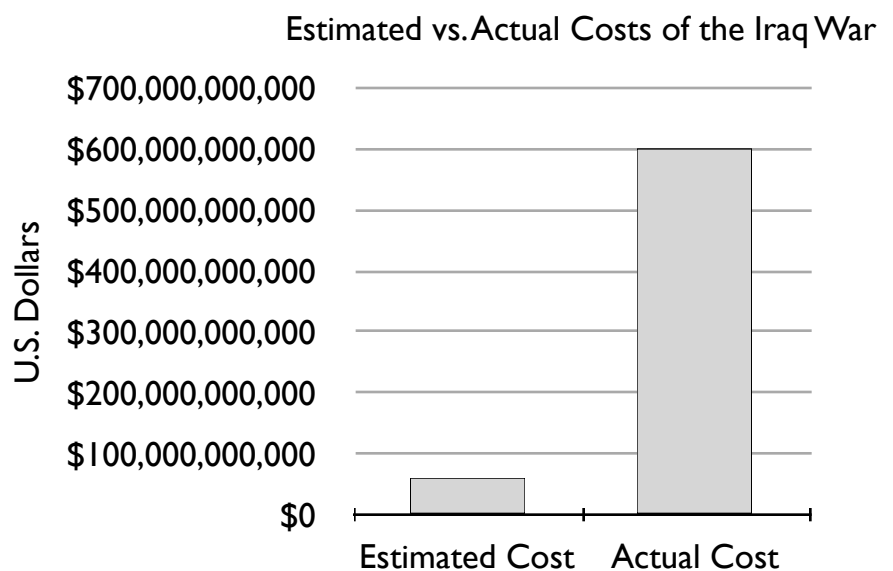


## PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

**Option 1:** At the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003, the administration of President George W. Bush **estimated** that it would cost sixty-billion dollars to end Saddam Hussein's **regime** and bring **stability** to Iraq. By March of 2008, Iraq was still **unstable**. Millions of Iraqi refugees who had been **displaced** by the war were still unable to return home. American support for the war had **diminished**. At that point, the war had already cost six hundred billion dollars.

Which of the following shows six hundred billion written in standard form?

- A) 600,000
- B) 600,000,000
- C) 60,000,000
- D) 600,000,000,000



**Option 2:** According to some **estimates**, there were over 2 million internally **displaced** people, or IDP's, in Iraq. IDP's are refugees who have fled their homes, but stayed within Iraq. Another 2 million Iraqi refugees sought **stability** in neighboring countries. Returning these people to their homes is one of many problems faced by the new Iraqi **regime**. As time goes on, the chances that these people will be able to resume their old lives **diminishes**. The population of Iraq is about 30 million. What percentage of the population was **displaced** according to the **estimates** above?

**Discussion Question:** Who is responsible for **displaced** people? The **regime** of the home country? The **regime** of the country to which they flee? Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees on the streets of Syrian and Jordanian cities are threatening the **stability** of these countries. (While it is difficult to count refugees, it is **estimated** that 1.2 million refugees fled to Syria, and around half a million fled to Jordan.) Resources are **diminishing**. The U.S. has ended its operation in Iraq, but should we help these people return home?



# When should the U.S. send troops to other countries?

## THINKING SCIENTIFICALLY

Ms. Kahn and her class became interested in how U.S. soldiers are being trained. The U.S. military is one of the most highly trained militaries in the world. An elite Army unit called Army Rangers conducts special missions, like helping to **displace** enemy **regimes** in Panama, Iraq, and Somalia. The Rangers' nine-week intense training prepares them to lead a group of soldiers even while working in **unstable**, unpredictable, and physically challenging situations. They get an **estimated** 3.5 hours of sleep and eat two meals or less each day during training sessions.

Raj asks, "Wouldn't lack of sleep and hunger cause slower reaction times?" Ms. Kahn responds, "I doubt the intense training would **diminish** the quick-thinking skills of these elite members of the service. But we could test to see if our reaction times might be affected!"

→ Raj enjoyed setting up experiments, so he set up an experiment that would help find an answer to his question.

### Question:

Does hunger affect reaction time?

### Hypothesis:

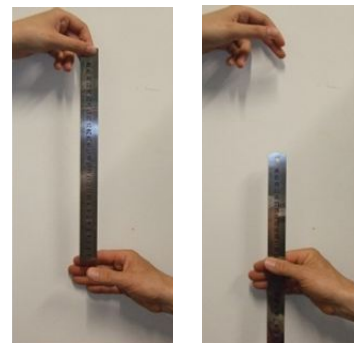
Students have better reaction times when they are not hungry.

### Materials:

- ▶ 30 cm ruler

### Procedure:

1. Set up testing sessions with test subjects right before lunch and right after lunch.
2. Have the subjects hold their fingers and thumb at the zero mark of the ruler without actually touching it.
3. Let go of the ruler without warning and see how quickly they can catch it as it falls.
4. Record data by reading the mark where each subject caught the ruler.
5. Repeat same test after lunch.



Here are Raj's data so far:

Person tested	Alan	Bak	Cherise	Dava	Eldridge	Fernando	Gisela
Before lunch	5	17	3	6	6	20	12
After lunch	8	5	5	10	4	13	15

Raj is a bit concerned about his experiment. He is wondering if it is fair. Here are his two main concerns:

1. He tested everybody only one time before lunch and one time after lunch.
2. People were already familiar with the reaction test when he tested them after lunch.

Have a class discussion about how seriously Raj should take his concerns. Do you have advice for Raj about a way he could improve his experiment?

# When should the U.S. send troops to other countries?



WRITE ABOUT IT

## Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

**A**

The United States must be willing to take military action when both the safety and economic stability of the country is threatened.

**B**

The United States should only take military action when there is a clear threat to its physical safety and its citizens may be harmed.

**C**

The United States must be willing to take military action when people in other countries are being murdered or **displaced** by a violent government.

**D**

The United States must be willing to take military action when the people of another country appear to be in danger by a violent government.

**E**

---



---



---

## Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

# GO!

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

...because...

An example might help convince me. Can you give me an example?

What part of the passage makes you think that?

I disagree with part of that...



Support your position with clear reasons and specific examples.  
Try to use relevant words from the Word Generation list in your response.

displace | regime | diminish | stable | estimate

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.