

Join the national conversation!



Word Generation - Unit 3.14

Focus Words

emerge | exploit | furthermore | confront | interfere



Weekly Passage

In 2007, CBS began filming a reality TV series called Kid Nation. Forty kids, eight to fifteen years old, lived alone, without any adults, in a ruined town deserted in the late 1800s. The town had no running water or electricity. The director and camera operators were always present, but they did not interfere unless it was necessary. The kids made their own laws and had to cooperate with each other.

The show's producers divided the participants into four teams. Teams competed against each other for money and other rewards. Participating children had the choice to leave the show anytime they wished. In fact, three kids did leave in the middle of the show. Supporters of the program say this was a good opportunity for kids to learn about the challenges inherent in running a town.

Supporters of Kid Nation thought the show gave kids an interesting opportunity to confront challenges collaboratively. Some kids emerged as leaders of the group, and others took on important roles in managing the town. All participants were rewarded for their work on the show with a \$5,000 paycheck. Through the competitions, they also had the opportunity to earn gold stars worth \$20,000 to \$50,000. At the end of the show three participants received \$50,000 gold stars.

Opponents say CBS was exploiting the kids to make money. Some even accused CBS of not

caring about the kids' safety or well-being during the series. They point out that the kids sometimes experienced dangerous situations. In one instance five kids drank bleach from unmarked bottles thinking it was water. While they all survived, none of the adults warned them or intervened to stop them.

Opponents remind us that, in each episode, the kids were confronted with a "challenge" that was designed to create conflict on the set. On a TV show, conflict is more interesting than everyone getting along, so people who are against Kid Nation say this is another way that CBS exploited the kids. Furthermore, opponents remind us that the kids worked long hours and had limited privacy (kids were filmed all the time). CBS said that the program was like summer camp, so the station did not have to follow child labor laws that protect kids who work. Parents had to sign a contract stating they would not sue the television network if anything happened to their kids, which included the possibility of death.

Supporters say this was a good opportunity for kids to develop leadership skills and make some money. Opponents suggest that the producers were mostly concerned with the show's ratings and that they endangered and exploited the young participants. Supporters want there to be a Kid Nation 2. What is your opinion? Should there be a Kid Nation 2?

Unit 3.14 - Should there be a Kid Nation 2?

Focus Word Chart

Word	Meaning	Forms	Examples of Use	Notes
confront	(v.) - to face, especially in challenge			
interfere	(v.) - to get in the way of			
emerge	(v.) - to become known			
exploit	(v.) - to make use of, often unfairly			
furthermore	(adv.) - in addition to what came before			

Unit 3.14 - Should there be a *Kid Nation* 2? Problem of the Week



Option 1: On the show *Kid Nation*, kids worked and played without adult **interference**. As time went by, certain kids **emerged** as leaders. They resolved **conflicts**. **Furthermore**, they were able to **exploit** opportunities to bring kids together, like when Morgan helped set up a no-pressure prayer time. Morgan was awarded two gold stars, worth a total of seventy thousand dollars.

Which of the following choices represents seventy thousand dollars?

- A) \$7,000
- B) \$70,000
- C) \$700,000
- D) \$70,000,000

Option 2: Some people accused company that produced of *Kid Nation* of **exploiting** kids. These kids were put in situations designed to create **conflicts** that would make the TV show exciting. When kids got upset, their angry words or sad tears were broadcast to millions of people. On the other hand, some people said, if the kids chose to participate, why should anyone else **interfere**? Many of the kids wanted to be actors, and they loved the attention. Some **emerged** as celebrities who appeared on talk shows and got acting roles. **Furthermore**, some kids won cash prizes.

Out of 40 contestants, 16 won cash prizes. When the show began, what was the probability that any one kid would earn a cash prize?

Math Discussion Question: Different observers tell **conflicting** stories of what happened on *Kid Nation*. Did adults **exploit** innocent kids to make money? Or did **emerging** young actors **exploit** an opportunity to become famous? **Furthermore**, who should decide if kids are being exploited? If kids *are* being exploited, who should **interfere** or step in to protect them from **exploitation**?

Should there be a Kid Nation 2? Debating the Issue



I. Get ready...

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

A Kid Nation is a great opportunity for kids. Kid Nation 2 should be made in just the same way as Kid Nation.

B Kid Nation is a great opportunity for kids. Kid Nation 2 should be made but with clearer rules about when adults will become involved.

C Kid Nation exploits kids. Kid Nation 2 should not be made until the producers have better safety rules.

D Kid Nation exploits kids and puts them at risk. Kid Nation 2 should not be made.

E _____

GO!

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

...because...

I disagree with part of that...

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

What part of the passage makes you think that?

2. Get set...

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

Unit 3.14 - Should there be a Kid Nation 2?

Science Activity



This activity is designed to help you practice thinking like a scientist and to use this week's focus words. Sometimes the data are based on real research, but they should never be considered true or factual.

Marta, a student in Professor Seemy's class, doesn't like the idea of Kid Nation. "If I went on Kid Nation, problems might **emerge** that I wouldn't want to **confront** without adults to help me. What if somebody got hurt? **furthermore**, I wouldn't want to do all my own cooking and chores!"

Nate disagrees. "I don't think that Kid Nation **exploits** children at all. All the children on the show agreed to join, and kids should be able to make their own choices without adults **interfering**! I don't understand why we have to wait until we turn 18 to sign contracts and vote. 18 years is a long time! I bet that most other countries have a voting age lower than 18."

"Let's find out if Nate is right about voting ages!" says Professor Seemy.

Question:

How many countries allow citizens to vote when they are younger than 18?

Hypothesis:

Over 50% of countries in the world will have a voting age that is lower than 18.

Materials:

- ▶ Data about the legal voting age in different countries around the world

Procedure:

Using the data set, calculate the percentage of countries with each voting age.

Data:

Voting Age	Number of Countries	Percentage of Countries
16	7	3.20%
17	6	2.74%
18	187	85.39%
19	3	1.37%
20	3	1.37%
21	12	5.47%
25	1	0.46%

Conclusion:

Is the hypothesis supported or not by the data?

What evidence supports your conclusion?

How would you make this a better study?



Focus Words

	Exemplary
<input type="checkbox"/> Stated my own position clearly	
<input type="checkbox"/> Included 1-2 arguments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Included 1 counterargument	
<input type="checkbox"/> Used 2-5 focus words	

Check off what you accomplished:

- ☐ Stated my own position
- ☐ Included 1 focus word

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1-2 focus words

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1 counterargument
- ☐ Used 2-5 focus words

[illegible]