



Pop music

Pop music usually becomes popular with young people first and often has a strong beat and a simple tune. It's also, according to music writer Paul McGuinness, "the world's most important art form." The Oxford Dictionary says that works of art are "appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power," which can definitely apply to pop music. Of course, not all pop music is art. But when good pop music speaks to our emotions or communicates some kind of message, then it's art.

Video games

Video games such as *The Legend of Zelda* are hugely popular around the world. But are they art? Gaming expert Chris Melissinos believes that video games may be one of the most important art forms in history. Why? They allow players to make a deep connection with an artistic experience. "If you can observe the work of another and find in it personal connection, then art has been achieved," he says. "Video games are a natural evolution of what we've always done: play—to discover our world, discover each other, and discover ourselves."

Street painting

In many cities, painting or writing on a building without permission is a crime. But not in all cities. According to writer Emily Baillie, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, it isn't a crime: "All the artist needs is permission from the building owner." In fact, building owners often ask street artists "to add something interesting to their bare walls." Marton Otonelo, speaking for the local government, says that street art in Buenos Aires is "part of the city." Other cities such as Zürich, Switzerland, have areas of the city where street painting is actually encouraged. But this doesn't mean that anything painted on a city wall is art. Good street art requires skill, can make a city more beautiful, and can be enjoyed by the people who live there.

Comics

From Japanese manga to the globally famous *Avengers* series, stories told with pictures are popular around the world. They're sometimes called comics or graphic novels, though many are serious and tell true stories. Artist Darran Anderson points out that comics are often read and thrown away, but that doesn't mean they aren't art. They also help us to "understand a place and time and those who lived there. Manga doesn't need to be high art. Manga is manga."

Look at the Reading skill box. Choose two sentences that are the main points of the article. Think about how you could combine these two sentences to create a summary of the article.

- Pop music, which includes many different styles of song, is usually popular with young people first.
- Pop music, video games, street painting, and comics are art if they are beautiful and make people feel emotion.
- Video games are popular all over the world and allow people to discover the world.
- Good art requires skill to create and usually communicates some kind of message or idea that people can understand.
- In Buenos Aires, building owners sometimes ask artists to paint pictures on the walls to make an area more beautiful.