Paragraph

The Pulitzer Prize

1 The Pulitzer Prize came about as part of an attempt by newspaperman Joseph T. Pulitzer to upgrade the profession of journalism. Pulitzer, the owner of the *New York World* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, made a proposal in 1903 to Columbia University to make a $2 million bequest to the university for the dual purposes of establishing a school of journalism at the university and also awarding prizes for exceptional work in journalism and other fields. However, the university did not initially respond as one might expect to such a seemingly generous offer.

2 Interestingly, Columbia University was not immediately amenable to the proposal by Pulitzer inasmuch as journalism was not held in high regard in general and Pulitzer's papers were more known for their sensationalization of the news than for the high quality of the journalism. The trustees of the university were not at all sure at first that they wanted a school of journalism because newspaper reporting was considered more of a trade than a profession at the time, and they did not want to diminish the academic prestige of their institution. It took years of discussion and negotiation to agree on the terms for establishing the school of journalism and the prizes bearing Pulitzer's name, and it was not actually until the year after Pulitzer's death in 1911 that construction began on the building to house Columbia's new school of journalism. The school of journalism opened in 1913, and the first prizes were awarded in 1917, for work done the previous year.

3 The method for selecting Pulitzer Prize winners and the categories for prizes have changed slightly over the years. Today, more than twenty-one different awards are given in three different areas, with the majority of awards going to journalists; fourteen of the awards are from various aspects of journalism (i.e., news reporting, feature writing, cartoons, and photography), six awards are given in letters (fiction, nonfiction, history, drama, poetry, and biography), and one award in music. Award categories are reevaluated and modified as modes of written communication have altered. Categories that become obsolete are eliminated; the category for telegraphic reporting, based on the telegram, was discontinued once the telegraph fell out of widespread use. Conversely, categories have expanded to include written work produced and presented through advancements in technology. For example, in 2008, the first online-only submissions were accepted for review. Prior to that, any work that was considered had to come originally from a printed source.

4 The process to achieve an award has several steps. First, the Pulitzer Prize hopeful submits his work for consideration. Anyone who has published work that meets the conditions for entry is allowed to submit his work, and the prize committees will not look at any publications that have not been formally entered. Columbia University appoints nominating juries comprising experts in each field, who carefully review each of the entries. The juries select the top three entries in each category that they feel are most qualified and they submit these nominations to the Pulitzer Prize Board, which makes the final decisions and awards the prizes. While there are various nominating juries for the different categories, a single board makes the decisions for all of the categories.

5 Because of its prestige, the Pulitzer Prize is one of the most sought after awards in writing. Winners are considered the best writers in their respective fields, and for this reason, thousands of authors submit their work each year, even though the monetary compensation for winning is relatively small. Past winners have used the positive publicity and reputation generated by the award to launch or strengthen their writing careers.

6 The award is not without its detractors, however. One of the most famous opponents of the award was Robert R. "Colonel" McCormick, former editor and publisher of the

Chicago Tribune. He disputed the validity of the prize, feeling that it was little more than a bribe. As a result, McCormick would not honor any *Chicago Tribune* journalists who were named as winners. His stance against the Pulitzer Prize continued throughout his tenure at the newspaper, ending in 1961.

Chicago Tribune. He disputed the validity of the prize, feeling that it was little more than a bribe. As a result, McCormick would not honor any *Chicago Tribune* journalists who were named as winners. His stance against the Pulitzer Prize continued throughout his tenure at the newspaper, ending in 1961.

10. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 1? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Joseph Pulitzer generously offered to donate a large sum of money to Columbia University for two specific purposes.
- (B) In 1903, an attempt was made by Joseph Pulitzer to halt the movement of the school of journalism and the journalism prizes from Columbia University.
- (C) Joseph Pulitzer requested that Columbia University donate a large sum of money to the *New York World* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for the purpose of establishing journalism scholarships and prizes.
- (D) In 1903, Joseph Pulitzer decided to give up his position as head of two newspapers to take over the department of journalism at Columbia University.

11. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 2? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) While the university immediately appreciated Pulitzer's proposal, they did not agree completely with him about the need to create a trade school for journalism.
- (B) University officials were unhappy about Pulitzer's offer because they believed the newspaper reports would damage the image of journalism at their institution.
- (C) Initially, the university was not interested in working with Pulitzer to establish journalism as a course of study because they did not consider newspaper reporting to be an acceptable profession, or one that would enhance the school's reputation.
- (D) The trustees were unclear about how the exchange of reporting with the Pulitzer newspapers would increase the quality of what was being taught in Columbia University's school of journalism.

12. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 3? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Telegraphic reporting, an unpopular category, was taken off the list of prizes.
- (B) Categories that are no longer relevant, such as telegraphic reporting, are removed from the types of prizes awarded.
- (C) When a mode of written communication goes out of style, as telegraphic reporting did, its reward is significantly decreased.
- (D) It was nearly impossible to eliminate the telegraphic reporting category from the prize list once it was established.

13. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 4? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) The prize committee only evaluates official entries, though anyone who is eligible is allowed to enter.
- (B) Anyone who is a writer can ask the committee to look at his work.
- (C) Only certain writers that meet the strict conditions for entry can submit their work.
- (D) The prize committee selects works from the public to examine and award prizes to.

14. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 5? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Though the amount of money won for the prize is pretty small, struggling writers still appreciate the financial recognition.
- (B) Writers who win the prize become the best in their field of writing, despite the lack of money won.
- (C) Winning writers become well-known for their work and gain a large financial windfall from the award.
- (D) Writers mainly submit their work for the boost it gives to their writing reputation, and not for the prize money.

Paragraph

Competition and Cooperation

1 Once viewed as two disparate behavioral patterns largely independent of one another, explanations of the interrelationship between competition and cooperation have evolved over time. Early research into competition and cooperation defined each of them in terms of the distribution of rewards related to each. Competition was defined as a situation in which rewards are dispensed unequally on the basis of performance; cooperation, on the other hand, was defined as a situation in which rewards are distributed in a primarily equitable manner on the basis of mutual interactive behavior among individuals. By this definition, a competitive situation requires at least one competitor to fail for each competitor that wins, while a cooperative situation offers a reward only if all members of a group receive it.

2 Researchers have found definitions of these two conditions based upon rewards inadequate, primarily due to the fact that definitions of these two concepts with reward distribution as the distinctive difference have depicted competition and cooperation as opposites. In current understanding, competition is not viewed as the opposite of cooperation; instead cooperation is perceived as an integral component of competition. Cooperation is necessary among team members, perhaps in a sporting event or in a political race, in order to win the competition. To take the idea a step further, cooperation is of great significance between opposing teams as well, inasmuch as the competing sides need to be in agreement regarding the basic ground rules of the game or election that each are striving to win.

3 Interestingly, the word "competition" is derived from a Latin verb which means "to come together." An understanding of the derivation of the word "competition" further supports the understanding that cooperation, rather than evoking a characteristic at the opposite extreme of human nature from competition, is in reality a necessary factor in competition. If the structure of a competition is analyzed more deeply, it is easily seen that, in fact, virtually all competitions require that two or more parties meet in order to begin the contest. This, in and of itself, requires a sense of cooperation to achieve.

4 A societal expectation of social cohesion also influences the state of competition and its connection to cooperation. While the vast majority of people have an inherent sense of individual self-interest, this desire to put one's own wants and needs ahead of those of others is softened by the desire for social connection and acceptance. In other words, although a person may want to make accomplishing his goals and "winning" his competitions the priority, he realizes that doing so may destroy social connections with friends and family, connections that he values more than achieving his individual goals. For this reason, people often modify their competitive nature to allow for more cooperative actions, so that others in their social circles have the chance to achieve at relatively similar levels of success.

5 However, even with the motivation of social cohesion influencing the competitive mindset and moving it more toward a collaborative way of thinking, this does not mean that competitors always become strictly cooperative within their close social circles. Although a competitor may moderate his achievements to remain inside the socially acceptable levels of his circle of family and friends, he may still want to be at the top of that circle. This typically translates to competition within the circle in which a competitor or group of competitors attains the position of "winner" within the social grouping and then maintains a stable level of achievement so as not to outshine the group by too much. Another option is that the "winner" becomes more cooperative with others of his group in order to help them reach his level; subsequently, the competitors can begin a new round of competition to reach higher goals.

6 In social groupings where a competitor violates these intrinsic guidelines, whether intentionally or by accident, the competitor can find himself isolated from the rest of the group. In this scenario, the competitor has a few options to choose from: he can alter his behavior to bring him back to a level found suitable by the rest of the group; he can accept the terms of the isolation as a necessary sacrifice for satisfying his individual self-interest; or he can seek out a new social group that he is more compatible with. However, even within the new group, the competitor has to adjust himself to the balance of cooperation and competition modeled by this group as a whole.

15. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 1? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Unequal rewards for competition should be distributed equally to achieve cooperation.
- (B) Earlier definitions of competition and cooperation described them in basically the same way.
- (C) Competition and cooperation were seen as opposites, with rewards distributed equally to those who competed and unequally to those who cooperated.
- (D) Competition was defined in terms of unequal distribution of rewards and cooperation in terms of equal distribution of rewards.

16. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 2? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) It does not work well to define competition and cooperation in terms of rewards because definitions of this type incorrectly indicate that the two are opposites.
- (B) Researchers tend to define competition and cooperation on the basis of rewards because this shows how the two differ.
- (C) Researchers are looking for ways to define cooperation and competition in terms of rewards but have so far not been able to come up with definitions.
- (D) Research has shown that the optimal definitions of competition and cooperation are those indicating that the two are opposites.

17. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 3? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) "Competition" and "cooperation" are virtually synonyms due to the origins of each word.
- (B) Despite the meaning of "competition," research has shown that it is the extreme opposite in meaning to "cooperation."
- (C) One can recognize that cooperation is closely connected to competition though examining the origins of the word "competition."
- (D) People with characteristics at the opposite ends of human nature have found an essential connection by understanding the beginnings of the word "competition" and the principle of cooperation.

18. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 4? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) People who show a strong sense of self-interest are more likely to have weak social connections and acceptances.
- (B) Although it is difficult for inherently selfish people to develop close, accepting social relationships, they manage to connect to others.
- (C) People who demonstrate less self-interest typically do not connect with those who demonstrate more self-interest.
- (D) Even though most people want to take care of their own needs first, the desire for a connection to, and acceptance from others helps them to be less selfish.

19. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 5? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) However, social cohesion encourages competitors to move in the direction of more cooperative actions within their social circles.
- (B) Nevertheless, competitors do not become exclusively cooperative in their actions within their close social group, in spite of the effect of social cohesion on behavior.
- (C) In contrast, competitors move closer to social cohesion within their circle of friends and family by being strictly cooperative in their actions.
- (D) Competitors influence the bond of social cohesion within the group through their cooperative behavior, although it is not always strictly collaborative.

LIVEWORKSHEETS