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Vocabulary Activities STEP I: Word Level

Word Form Chart			
Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
inspector inspection _____	inspect _____	_____	_____
rationalization	rationalize	mutual rational irrational	mutually rationally
legislator legislation legislature	legislate	legislative	_____
ethnicity	_____	ethnic	ethnically

A. Fill in the blanks with a target word from the chart in the correct form. Use your

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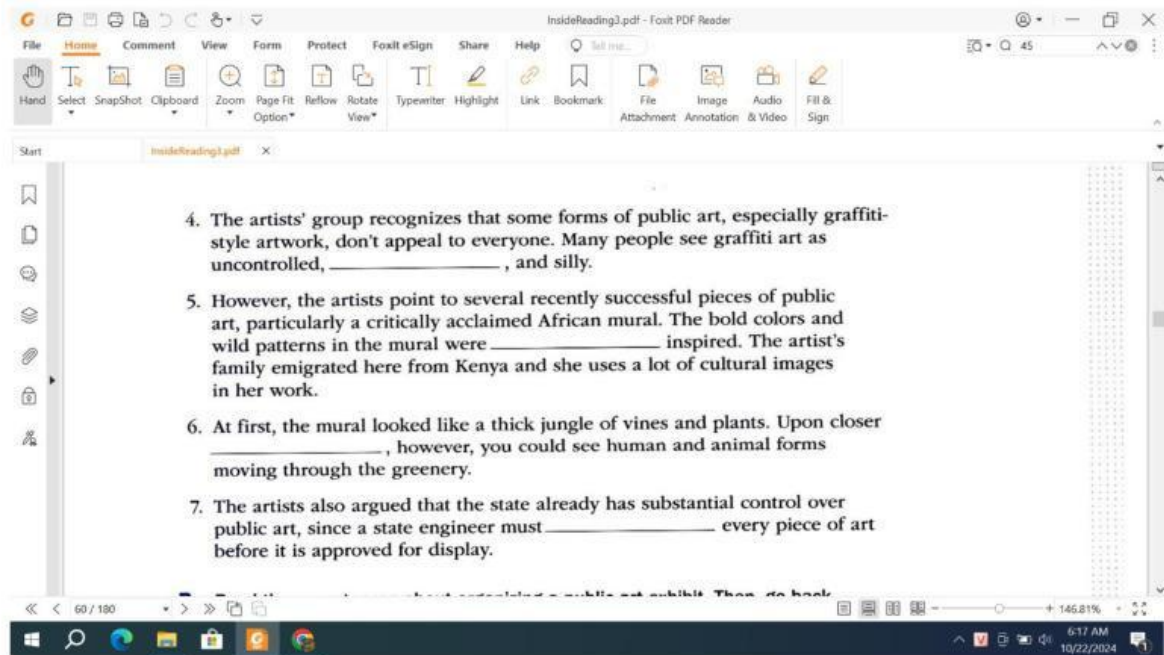
Vocabulary Activities STEP I: Word Level

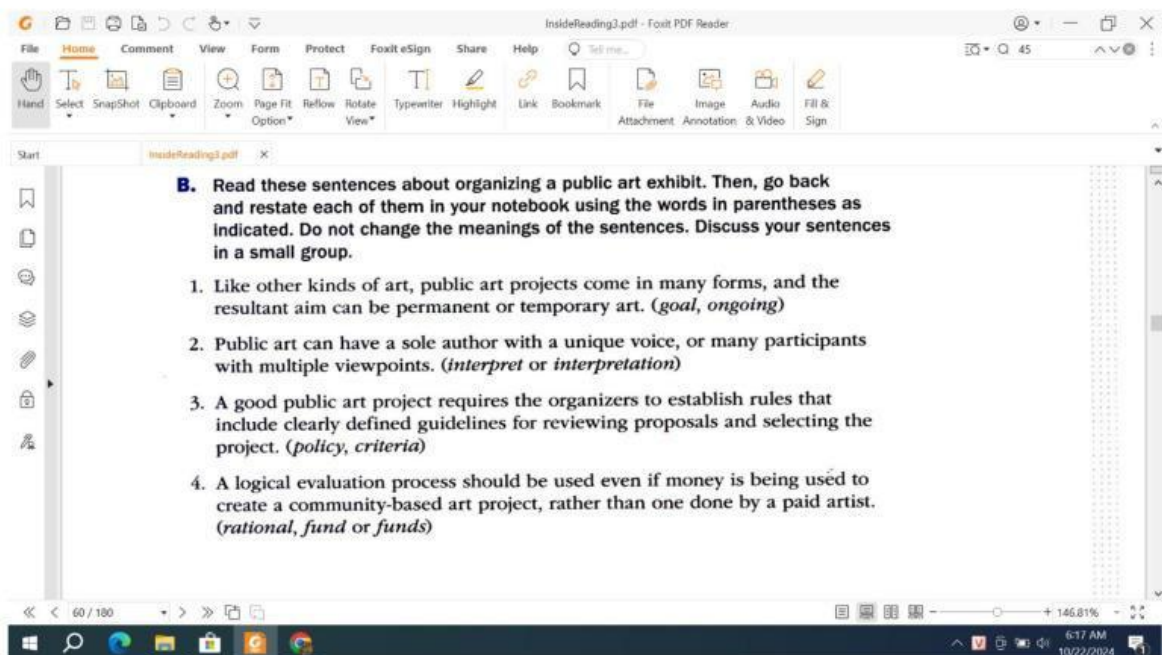
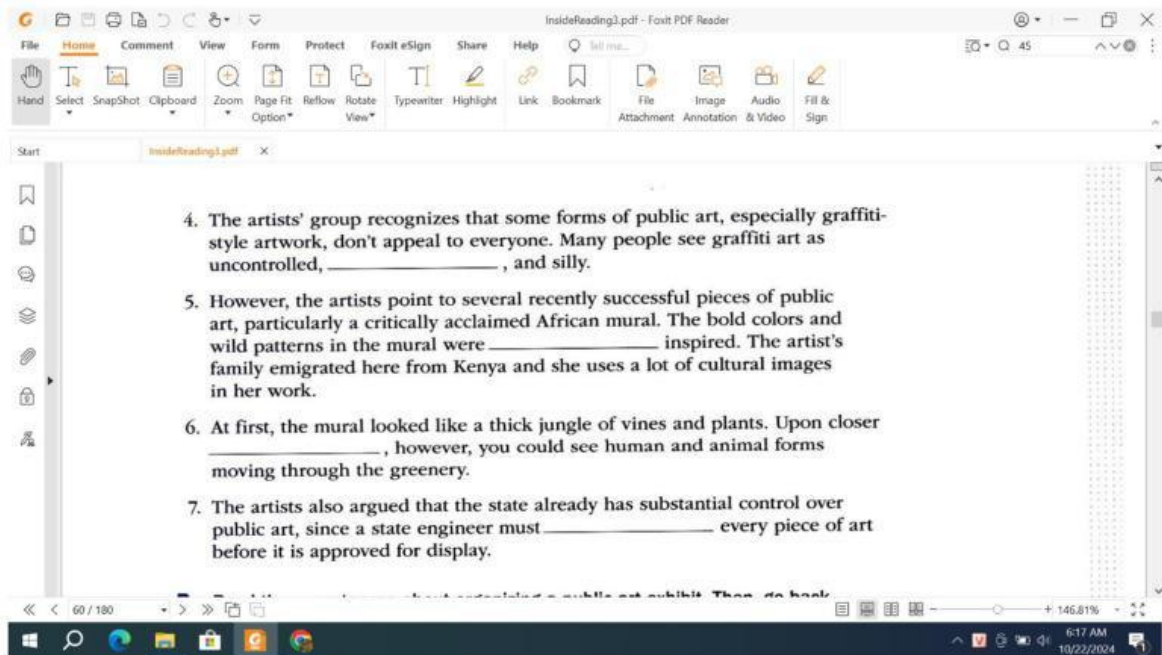
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A. Fill in the blanks with a target word from the chart in the correct form. Use your dictionary to help understand new words. Compare answers with a partner.

- There has been a big increase in the amount of graffiti on public buildings lately. In fact, the state legislature is considering a law making it a crime to paint on buildings.
- However, local artists are concerned this law will affect public art, which they argue is _____ beneficial. The city gets an increase in tourism, and artists get some attention that can lead to more commissions.
- The artists _____ public art displays by arguing that any exposure to art is a positive thing.

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Vocabulary Activities STEP II: Sentence Level

Rational means "reasonable, sensible, or logical." Likewise, **rationally** means "sensibly or logically." A **rationale** is a reason to do something. These are usually used in positive or unemotional contexts.

Decisions about how to use public money must be made **rationally**, with careful consideration given to many criteria.

The verb to **rationalize** means "to find reasons to explain why you have done something." It is used in situations where there probably is not a good reason, but the person is trying to pretend there is.

Although some art experts find animal displays unimpressive, they **rationalize** them by arguing that they increase interest in "real" art.

C. Read this essay discussing the author's frustration with the public art selection process. In your notebook, summarize the reasons the author gives for his opinion. Use different forms of *rational* in your summary. Discuss your summary in a small group. How many forms of *rational* was your group able to use?

One reason that public art is so terrible is that the entire process is controlled by idiotic bureaucrats and political appointees, many of whom are completely ignorant about art. Because public art offices are part of local government, poor artistic works are often chosen by someone with a low position who justifies his or her choice by saying it was politically necessary.

The selection of projects to receive state funding is done by a committee whose members are rarely selected using sensible criteria. Many members of the committee do not have an ongoing commitment to public art and don't have the education needed to logically consider the merits of different works. Some members do not see the value of "art for art's sake." They give an explanation of their choices based on whether they think the art will help the local economy.

Artists whose pieces are not chosen are often disappointed because they don't understand the reason their work was rejected.

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D. Look at these arguments for and against animal art displays, such as the Cow Parades (discussed on page 35), that have been popular in recent years. Restate each idea in your notebook, using the word in parentheses. Then write a paragraph that expresses your own opinion. Try to use as many target words as possible in your work. Be prepared to debate this issue in class.

For	Against
Children, parents, and grandparents can spend quality time at these exhibits, because they can discuss a shared experience. (<i>mutual</i>)	Animal parades do not have any of the qualities that are generally used to decide if something should be considered art. (<i>criteria</i>)
Displays like Cow Parade have successfully achieved their objective of bringing in shoppers to struggling businesses. (<i>goal</i>)	This phenomenon is continuous, with no end in sight, and as more locations follow the trend, the individual identities of the cities are lost. (<i>ongoing</i>)
Many young artists see animal art displays as a chance to bring their own ideas	Laws that fund public art only allow for a certain amount of money each year, so anything spent on a Cow Parade is taken

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For	Against
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Displays like Cow Parade have successfully achieved their objective of bringing in shoppers to struggling businesses. (<i>goal</i>)	This phenomenon is continuous, with no end in sight, and as more locations follow the trend, the individual identities of the cities are lost. (<i>ongoing</i>)
Many young artists see animal art displays as a chance to bring their own ideas and understanding of a theme to a wider audience. (<i>Interpretation, topic</i>)	Laws that fund public art only allow for a certain amount of money each year, so anything spent on a Cow Parade is taken away from legitimate art. (<i>legislation</i>)

E. Self-Assessment Review: Go back to page 33 and reassess your knowledge of the target vocabulary. How has your understanding of the words changed? What

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