

1 Jeroen Koolhaas and Dre Urhahn, the pair of artists known as Haas and Hahn, grew up in Holland, far from the tough neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they completed some of their most innovative street paintings. Koolhaas and Urhahn met as university students and began working together professionally when Koolhaas was making a documentary film about hip hop in Brazil's favelas—the informal, urban neighborhoods in which many of Brazil's very low-income families live. (1) What if they could paint the crumbling houses and dirty buildings and turn them into art? Could they help make these dangerous neighborhoods beautiful, inspiring places to live?

2 Most favelas in Brazil were built by the people who live in them as they moved to the cities in search of work. (2) Koolhaas and Urhahn wanted to do their paintings in the same way the favelas were built, using local people to paint and letting the paintings be created without too much planning.

3 First, they started spending a lot of time in Vila Cruzeiro, a favela neighborhood that they believed could become their first large painting project. The artists spent time in the neighborhood and got to know the people there. As local residents became excited about the project, Koolhaas and Urhahn began hiring local workers to plaster and paint the houses they selected. They worked together with the

local artists for 18 months, and the result was colorful neighborhood paintings that cover dozens of buildings and bring art into one of Rio's poorest communities.

4 (3) After Vila Cruzeiro, Koolhaas and Urhahn were contacted by officials from North Philadelphia, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the United States. (4) The project took roughly two years to complete, but the new painters, along with Koolhaas and Urhahn, painted over 50 buildings to create a huge urban painting of colorful stripes. The City of Philadelphia recognized the efforts of the local painters by giving them an award for their accomplishment.

5 Critics of Koolhaas and Urhahn's art projects say that painting such troubled neighborhoods does not address the real problems they face, like poverty, unemployment, drugs, and crime. (5) They don't expect a painting to solve complex social and economic issues. (6) It inspires the local residents and gives them pride in their community. It changes attitudes.

6 So Koolhaas and Urhahn will continue to bring art to troubled communities. They have worked in Haiti and Curacao and receive emails from interested cities every week. They hope their work will encourage kids to pursue creative careers.



A favela neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro

Read the article. Sentences a–g below have been removed from the article. Decide which sentence belongs in each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 1 _____ | a They moved to the neighborhood, hired about twelve local residents and trained them to paint. |
| 2 _____ | b They were built without any of the planning that makes cities functional and attractive. |
| 3 _____ | c The Vila Cruzeiro project attracted attention from other cities trying to improve their struggling neighborhoods. |
| 4 _____ | d Koolhaas and Urhahn hope to work in many more cities, all over the world. |
| 5 _____ | e Koolhaas and Urhahn agree. |
| 6 _____ | f However, they believe that bringing colorful art into disadvantaged neighborhoods does something else. |
| | g While visiting these favelas, famous for their crime and drug problems, the artists saw something different—potential. |

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3 Choose the correct options according to the information in the article.

- 1 Why did Koolhaas and Urhahn want to paint the favelas?
- a They wanted to make them inspiring places to live.
 - b They wanted to provide jobs for local workers.
 - c They were making a documentary about local artists.
 - d They enjoy street painting.
- 2 Who built most of the favelas in Brazil?
- a skilled carpenters
 - b city planners
 - c the people who live there
 - d architects
- 3 Which of the following could replace the underlined word "accomplishment" in paragraph 4?
- a buildings
 - b successful project
 - c employment
 - d stripes
- 4 Why do some people criticize Koolhaas and Urhahn's art projects?
- a They think the artists take advantage of local workers.
 - b They do not believe that art can help local communities.
 - c They believe the art does not help with the biggest problems in the communities.
 - d They do not think that artists from another country can understand local communities.

Extension Choose the correct options to complete the text.

Every May, we organize a "fringe festival" that runs alongside the main festival in Brighton. There are hundreds of different events that are held over the five-day period. There is stand- (1) _____ comedy at the Bizarre Comedy Club, where there is also an (2) _____ mic for people who want to try stand-up comedy. There will be showing of the best of (3) _____ cinema, and poetry (4) _____ from new writers. There are also free events including dozens of outdoor (5) _____ performances and a (6) _____ launch on Saturday, where you can meet local authors and get signed copies of their books. Finally, come along to the City (7) _____ Hall to see a display of local children's artwork.

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 a off | c up |
| b in | d down |
| 2 a public | c private |
| b closed | d open |
| 3 a independent | c fringe |
| b main | d public |
| 4 a writings | c launches |
| b readings | d exhibits |
| 5 a hall | c park |
| b movie | d street |
| 6 a comedy | c book |
| b art | d photography |
| 7 a Exhibit | c Exhibiting |
| b Exhibition | d Exhibited |

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 The students in my class are from *diverse / low / leading* backgrounds—everyone has a different perspective to share.
- 2 In this school we follow a *hard / strict / mixed* set of rules, and there are consequences if you break them.
- 3 With a lot of *driving / innovative / hard* work and effort, you can achieve all your goals.
- 4 My school is starting an *innovative / individual / mixed* program where students can volunteer to tutor other students who need extra help.
- 5 He won a scholarship that helps *mixed- / diverse- / low-* income students afford the fees at the private school.
- 6 She is a member of the *leading / straightforward / private* orchestra in the city, in which she plays the violin.
- 7 He never stops studying because of his *hard / leading / driving* ambition to get into the best college in the country.
- 8 Although the teacher worked hard to prepare the students, they received *straightforward / hard / mixed* results on the exam.

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences talking about the future in the past.

- 1 read / my / book / sister / to / but / couldn't / going / find / her / was
- 2 my / I / if / he / wondered / to / come / party / would
- 3 fell / I / to / going / call / was / you, / but / I / asleep
- 4 the / by the time / started / the / we / will / get / to / have / theater, / movie
- 5 have / sailing / two / by the time / arrive, / we'll / been / we / for / hours
- 6 saved / he'll / by the time / of / money / have / he / retires, / a lot

Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 By dinner time, _____
- 2 I'm looking forward to going to dinner because _____
- 3 I'll be eating dinner after _____
- 4 I'll eat dinner when _____
- 5 I told him I was _____
- 6 I'm going to eat dinner and then _____
- 7 Before I went to dinner, I _____
- 8 I'm about to eat dinner and _____
- 9 Before I went to dinner, _____
- a going to eat dinner and then study.
- b was planning to study.
- c I thought I would study.
- d I study.
- e I'll have been studying for six hours.
- f then I'll study.
- g study.
- h I've finished studying.
- i I'll have finished studying by then.

Complete the steps for writing a for and against essay.

against	brief	conclusion	four
in favor of	introduction	personal	relevant
support	three		

A for and against essay is usually
 (1) _____ paragraphs long.
 The opening paragraph is the (2) _____.
 It states the topic and tells the reader why it is currently
 (3) _____. It also gives a
 (4) _____ overview of the topic.
 The main body of the essay is made up of paragraphs
 two and (5) _____. The
 second paragraph should offer a few points
 (6) _____, or for, the topic. The
 third paragraph should supply two or three points
 opposing, or (7) _____, the topic. It
 is important to provide reasons and examples to
 (8) _____ these points.
 The closing paragraph is the (9) _____.
 The writer sums up the essay and gives his or her
 (10) _____ opinion on the topic.

Read the for and against essay. Then match the underlined items (1-8) with their function (a-h).

Local artists who improve our community should be given free housing. Do you support or oppose this idea?

(1) There has been a significant increase in community art projects in the past year. Local artists have been working with residents to create public murals, installations, and various sculptures around our city. (2) By and large, these creations are warmly received by the community. It also bears mentioning that many of these artists are struggling financially.

One very convincing argument in favor of giving free housing to local artists is the value they bring to our city. (3) The work they do helps to establish a stronger sense of community. It is sometimes said that cities are unfriendly, lonely places, but these shared collaborations bring people together and give them

an opportunity to express themselves creatively. (4) In addition, such meaningful creations give people greater pride in their neighborhoods. Providing free housing to the artists would be a worthy gesture of thanks from the city.

(5) However, many people strongly disagree with this proposal. First of all, it has been reported that some residents dislike the murals and sculptures in their areas. (6) Secondly, it is worth remembering that artists who collaborate in community projects are paid for their work. It is also important to point out that a career in art is a personal choice. Why should one profession be rewarded more generously than another? Finally, as our city has a high number of homeless people, many feel it would be better to give free housing to the needy rather than to artists.

(7) To sum up, (8) it seems to me that free housing should be reserved for those who need it the most. While it is true to say that local artists are doing excellent work in the community, giving them free housing does not seem to be a popular prospect.

- a sequencing points in a list _____
- b introducing the conclusion _____
- c introducing a general statement _____
- d introducing an opposing view _____
- e adding a further point _____
- f introducing a personal opinion _____
- g supporting a main point with a reason _____
- h establishing the recent relevance of the topic _____

Read the for and against essay in Activity 3 again. Then answer the questions. Write yes or no.

- 1 Is the essay about a definite plan to give free housing to local artists? _____
- 2 Does the writer show that local artists bring value to the community? _____
- 3 Can we infer that only a few people are opposed to giving artists free housing? _____
- 4 Do artists collaborate in community projects for free? _____
- 5 Overall, is the writer against artists being given free housing? _____