

## **PRACTICE 1 - PASSAGE:**

### **“Cost of Crime Adds Up”**

By Richard Burnett, Sentinel Staff Writer

Florida businesses will lose more money from crime this year than they'll spend on water, gas and electricity. This is according to a study released Tuesday. From shoplifting to employee theft, crime is expected to cost Florida businesses \$27.4 billion. The cost is twice that of residential crime, according to the report issued by Attorney General Charlie Crist and a law enforcement/industry coalition.

The biggest perpetrators, surprisingly, are not robbers and burglars. Rather, they are rogue employees, pilfering everything from stock inventory and office supplies to company accounts and confidential data. More than \$13 billion in losses -- almost half of Florida's annual total -- are attributed to those inside jobs, the study said. State officials said they are launching a campaign to inform the public and business community about the problem.

Burnett, Richard. From “Cost of Crime Adds Up.” Orlando Sentinel. 24 Nov. 2004. 24 Nov. 2004.  
<<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-bizbizcrime24112404nov24,1,5574133.story?coll=orl-home-headlines>>.

## **PRACTICE 1 - QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the author's purpose in writing the article?
  - A. To persuade the reader to buy a security system.
  - B. To entertain the reader with stories.
  - C. To inform the reader about how to steal from businesses.
  - D. To inform the reader about the effects of stealing.
2. What is the author's perspective toward “rogue employees?”
  - A. They are good for Florida businesses, according to the reports issued.
  - B. They should be fired immediately and prosecuted for their crimes.
  - C. They are worse than burglars and robbers when stealing from businesses.
  - D. They should lose income from their employers since they are thieves.

What is the **bias** in this article?

Can the source of information be **trusted**? How do you know?

Is this a **factual** article or **opinion** based? How do you know?

Connect with the text!  
**MY CONNECTION:**

**PRACTICE 2 - PASSAGE:**

What is the **bias** in this article?

Can the source of information be **trusted**? How do you know?

Is this a **factual** article or **opinion** based? How do you know?

**Experts: “Thrill rides pose little danger”** *But critics contend not enough is known about the physical impact of such rides.*

Amusement-park rides can be terrifying. In fact, scores of roller-coaster enthusiasts would be sorely disappointed if they weren't. But many medical doctors and researchers dismiss allegations that the physical forces the rides exert are dangerous. Though some rides can go faster than 100 mph, the physical stress they put on the body is not very great -- less in some cases than everyday experiences, such as dropping into a chair.

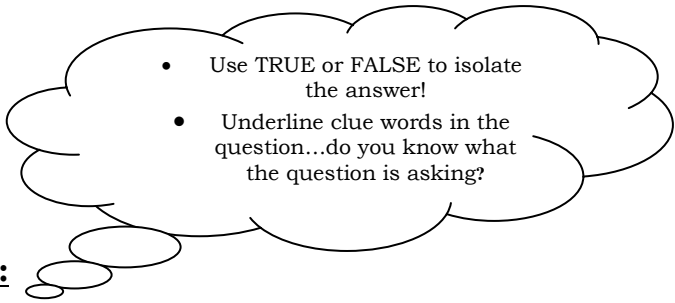
The worst aftereffect for most thrill seekers is a spinning head and a racing heart -- not nearly enough to keep them away. Rides are designed to produce the illusion of risk, and customers say they love the sensation.

Since the 15th century, when Russians were enticed by the thrill of riding blocks of ice down wooden ramps, to today, when coaster fans chase speeds that exceed highway limits, the allure of fear mixed with excitement hasn't waned.

Though amusement-park rides seldom hurt anyone, questions about their safety persist. Critics say that not enough is known about the impact the spitfire twists and turns, dives and accelerations have on people's bodies, and especially their brains.

Amusement-park operators and some doctors who have closely studied thrill rides say there is little to fear. They say just a fraction of people who take rides at theme and amusement parks suffer problems, which may or may not have been caused by the rides themselves. "If everything is functioning properly, there is no reason to worry about taking a ride," said Dr. Douglas Smith, director of the Center for Brain Injury and Repair at the University of Pennsylvania. "If you are really worried about brain injury, use your seat belt on the drive to the amusement park."

SOURCE: \*Boyd, Christopher and Adrian Uribarri. "Experts: Thrill Rides Pose Little Danger," Orlando Sentinel, June 19, 2005.

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- Use TRUE or FALSE to isolate the answer!
  - Underline clue words in the question...do you know what the question is asking?

**PRACTICE 2 - QUESTIONS:**

1. According to Dr. Douglas Smith, what is the likelihood of suffering a brain injury on a thrill ride?

- A. He thinks that you are more likely to suffer a brain injury in an automobile than on a thrill ride.
- B. He thinks that you are not likely to suffer a brain injury in an automobile or on a thrill ride.
- C. He thinks that riders in both automobiles and thrill rides are likely to suffer a brain injury.
- D. He thinks that thrill rides are dangerous and likely to result in brain injury, but that automobiles are worse.

2. Which two perspectives are primarily addressed by the author in this article?

- A. Some people love to go on thrill rides, but others do not ride them.
- B. Not enough is known about thrill rides and they are too dangerous.
- C. Some people are critical of thrill rides, but many experts feel they are safe.
- D. Thrill rides are part of our history, but Orlando does not have the best rides.

**Using the Question Stems, write two of your own questions:**

My purpose in reading this:

Reading Strategy I will use:

### **PRACTICE 3 – PASSAGE:**

## **Study: Teenage brain lacks empathy**

**By Sara Goudarzi**

If you ever sense teenagers are not taking your feelings into account, it's probably because they're just incapable of doing so.

The area of the brain associated with higher-level thinking, empathy, and guilt is underused by teenagers, reports a new study. When considering an action, the teenage medial prefrontal cortex, located in front of the brain, doesn't get as much action as adults. "Thinking strategies change with age," said Sarah-Jayne Blakemore of the University College London Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience. "As you get older you use more or less the same brain network to make decisions about your actions as you did when you were a teenager, but the crucial difference is that the distribution of that brain activity shifts from the back of the brain (when you are a teenager) to the front (when you are an adult)."

### **Teen thinking**

In the study, teens and adults were asked how they would react to certain situations. As they responded, researchers imaged their brains. Although both adults and teens responded similarly to the questions, their brain activity differed. The medial prefrontal cortex was much more active in the adults than in the teens. However, the teenagers had much more activity in the superior temporal sulcus, the brain area involved in predicting future actions based on previous ones.

Adults were also much faster at figuring out how their actions would affect themselves and other people. "We think that a teenager's judgment of what they would do in a given situation is driven by the simple question: 'What would I do?'" Blakemore said. "Adults, on the other hand, ask: 'What would I do, given how I would feel and given how the people around me would feel as a result of my actions?'"

### **Developing sensitivity**

Children start taking into account other people's feelings around the age of five. But the ability develops well beyond this age, the new research suggests.

And while some of this sensitivity could be the result of undeveloped regions in the brain, the experience that adults acquire from social interactions also plays an important role.

"Whatever the reasons, it is clear that teenagers are dealing with, not only massive hormonal shifts, but also substantial neural changes," Blakemore said. "These changes do not happen gradually and steadily between the ages of 0–18. They come on in great spurts and puberty is one of the most dramatic developmental stages." The results of the study were presented today at the BA Festival of Science in the UK.

**PASSAGE 3: QUESTIONS**

1. What is the author's perspective in this article? (author's point of view)
2. What does the author use to get her point across? (author's point of view)
3. What is the author's purpose in this article? (author's purpose)
4. With which statement listed below would the author of this article most likely agree? (author's perspective)
  - a. Parents should NOT take it personally when their teens don't feel sorry for how long they work in a day
  - b. There is no excuse for teens to have little sympathy for others
  - c. Teens today are lazy and have little respect for others
  - d. More research needs to be completed in order to truly understand why teens don't have more sympathy toward others.
5. Which statement BEST describes the author's attitude toward teenagers? (author's perspective)
  - a. Teens today are lazy and have little respect for their elders.
  - b. Teens should be given a break because it is clear that teenagers are dealing with, not only massive hormonal shifts, but also substantial neural changes
  - c. Teens don't think things out clearly and therefore they are unable to make logical decisions.