

When two texts have conflicting information on the same topic, they present facts, ideas, or viewpoints that contradict, or differ from, each other. Two authors may interpret the same information differently or have opposing opinions about a topic. To get a full understanding of a topic, it's important to read multiple texts about it. When you read two texts on the same topic, carefully analyze them to determine how and why the authors' interpretations are different. Ask yourself the following:

- What ideas in the two texts are similar? How are the authors' opinions the same?
- What ideas in the two texts differ? How are the authors' opinions different?

**Read the essay.**

## **Music Competitions Bring Great Benefits**

To compete or not to compete? That is a common question faced by music students and music educators in schools and universities everywhere. After all, competitions are common in music education. But there are plenty of parents and teachers who believe that playing music is solely about art and that competition has no role in music education. The renowned Hungarian composer and pianist Béla Bartók once said, "Competitions are for horses, not artists." However, I believe that music competitions are a critical component of any music education program, and their benefits far outweigh their drawbacks.

First, students become better musicians by preparing for competitions. Focused practice on a particular piece of music helps musicians master and expand their skills. Students push themselves harder to do their best every time they play. When one competitor does his or her best, the other competitors do their best, too. Music competitions make every competitor better by raising the standards for performance.

In addition, music competitions provide young musicians with a positive learning experience. Competitors get to be in the spotlight for a moment, performing for knowledgeable and interested listeners in ideal acoustic environments, rather than in their living rooms. In addition to learning from each other, musicians have the chance to receive personalized feedback from accomplished music professionals.

Finally, competitions help young musicians prepare for challenges in their future lives, outside of the music classroom. Life is competitive. Students will at some point have to compete with others for something important, such as a position at a company or a place at a university. Competitions teach students how to deal with competitive situations in a professional way and how to use setbacks to reset their goals and plans for success.

People who oppose music competitions argue that competitions increase levels of anxiety at a critical time in students' lives, when they are teenagers and young adults. Young people undoubtedly feel anxiety before any competition. However, this claim does not consider other greater sources of anxiety in student's lives, such as academic and social stress.

In conclusion, music competition benefits young musicians far more than it harms them. Competitions help students become better at their craft, allow them to gain valuable experience, and prepare them for futures outside of the field of music. It's important that music programs continue to encourage their aspiring musicians to compete.

Use the chart to compare the information in two essays about the same topic.

Ideas in Both Essays	Competitions in Music Education Should Be Reconsidered (Student's Book page 379)	Music Competitions Bring Great Benefits