

Some people believe that government funding of the arts is necessary to ensure that the arts can flourish and be available to all people. Others believe that government funding of the arts threatens the integrity of the arts.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

The idea of governmental endowment for the arts has been presented in the last decades as one of the most successful resources for the development of programs in music, theater and visual arts, both in the USA and in several European countries. The funding provided to artists, galleries, museums and private foundations to defray some of the expenses of their activities has shown a qualitative and quantitative improvement in their cultural productions. I consider ~~that~~ ^{to be} this financial aid is essential and has to continue existing. Nevertheless, despite the success of this economic model, it has raised some criticism from conservative political sectors and some progressive people. They are divided in two clear arguments: the former consider that the state ~~has to~~ ^{must not} to expend budget in arts because ~~they are not~~ ^{they are} useful, the latter states that art has to be liberated from public and political oriented endowment to be radically free.

We have several examples in the 20th ^{Century} in which this collaboration between public endowment and art was remarkable and essential in developing radical artistic responses from artistic communities. To give one example, I want to point out the case of the New Deal and the ^{Great} Depression of 1929. In this moment the American government developed successful programs that helped unemployed artists in developing ambitious projects with a broad spectrum of social implications. Public endowment allowed new forms of artistic expression such as

- Comment [WU1]: "Divided in" is for values/abstract concepts; "Divided into" for groups. "Divided among", less common.
- Comment [WU2]: Verb phrase
- Comment [WU3]: Unclear antecedent
- Comment [WU4]: spelling
- Comment [WU5]: capitalization

The Great Depression refers to 1929-1939 (approximately). 1929 marks the beginning with the "Wall Street Crash" or "Stock Market Crash of 1929"

century
↳ Core

nice!

nice!

mural painting that engendered the convergence of architecture and visual arts in public spaces. However, if we talk about the benefits of the governmental funding for the current historical moment the implications are not less worthy. All public artistic institutions are non-profit organizations and depending on private donors. When these private economic recourses were weak during the 2007 crisis, the flowing of public endowment was essential to continue maintaining artistic programs in institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They are key organizations that are not only important for cultural and local communities; their importance and relevance also affects directly to the economy of a cultural site like New York City. In sum, this alternative funding coming from governmental budget was and is essential to keep a high level of cultural activity that sustains other economic areas of the city such as hotels, restaurants and other business related with tourism.

Comment [WU6]: Depend/depending

Comment [WU7]: Verbal nouns

Comment [WU8]: I would say "These"

Comment [WU9]: Not only... but also

Comment [WU10]: Affects" takes no preposition

Another example can be located in Europe, where arts have been traditionally sustained by public budgets. This endowment has allowed the creation of one of the most important system of museums, theaters music halls and operas in the world. In Europe, the public financial aid for the arts is understood as an investment as relevant as education or health. It is sustained in the idea that every citizen has the right to enjoy culture because culture enriches knowledge, and enhance the understanding of different identities and religions across the world. As consequence, the state has the obligation of promoting these values among all citizens.

Comment [WU11]: plural

Comment [WU12]: verb agreement

To defray total or partial expenses of cultural institutions is an obligation that all modern economies have to face. In my opinion, this is a good and worthy choice to do. In addition to that, among the challenges that institutions devoted to

Comment [WU13]: word choice

make
↳ to make a decision / appointment / priority

the arts have to face in the following years is to convey a dualistic model in which private and public economic resources are complementary instead of the simple dichotomy of the past. This will allow more stable financial models and will enhance the creativity and possibilities of all art producers. At the same time, it will allow to a great number of audiences to enjoy art and knowledge, which I think is also one of the premises of modern democracies.

Comment [WU14]: no preposition

Laws should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

The application of law in modern society has experienced some recent important debates in countries such as the USA or other modern democracies.

There are traditional issues such as ^{the} death penalty or other newly ^{issues} discussed such as gay marriage and equality that have raised important debates that cannot be

Comment [WU15]: article

Comment [WU16]: need a noun

forgotten by governments when writing or reviewing old legislations, or by judges

Comment [WU17]: passive voice

applying these laws in courts. We know today that all societies are always in progress and in my opinion the first function of laws is to work for the general

understanding of citizens and for improvement of their lives, in this sense laws have to be reviewed each certain time and under new particular circumstances to accomplish their veritable goals.

Comment [WU18]: punctuation

One of the most polemic issues about American laws outside the USA is the application of the death penalty, still in use in several States. In some places such

Comment [WU19]: capital

commitments
should not
avoid

as Texas the number of executed prisoners is one of the highest of the country and some times has been proved that the already executed person was not guilty, or was not judged with enough evidences before the law was applied. This is probably a good example on how laws have to be reviewed and have to be flexible according to modern times. Today, after the rise of the Human Rights movement after World War II has shaped a new conscience on violence and its legitimate use by modern nations, the perception of particular laws that allow the assassination of citizens have been proved as a great failure. In this sense, the death penalty could have its value and general agreement in an underdeveloped society incapable to prevent and control criminality but modern times have raised a new awareness that cast doubt on these old legal practices. I think that lawmakers have to work together with other key agents of the society, such as politicians and police departments, to look for alternatives to these still remaining incomprehensible laws.

Comment [WU20]: subject; passive voice

Comment [WU21]: I would use "since"

Comment [WU22]: verb agreement; passive voice

Comment [WU23]: punctuation

Comment [WU24]: verb agreement

Another example that supports the need to reviewing and updating traditional legislations is the widely discussed right of homosexuals to be legally established as a family. In the past ten years we have seen an authentic revolution on marriage equality in countries such as Spain, Italy, Germany, France, and progressively in some states of the USA. In this case, traditional laws that understood the concept of marriage under a traditional patriarchal conception, that is to say the union between a man and a woman, didn't allow an equal recognition of all citizens. Thanks to changes introduced by progressive governments, laws legislating marriage can be more inclusive reflecting all kind of sexual identities and affections.

Comment [WU25]: need for + noun

Comment [WU26]: contractions are not for formal writing

To these two recent experiences highly debated in the public sphere, we can add other matters such as the protection of animals by law, understanding them as sensible beings to endure pain, or new legislations regarding ecological disasters unimaginable in the past. Only taking advantage from this perspective can a society advance and having and providing effective and modern juridical system. In sum, I consider that most of the laws have to be understood as a social construction that has to be reviewed according to the new needs of each generation of citizens.

Comment [WU27]: i

Comment [WU28]: article

Comment [WU29]: I would eliminate this

Comment [WU30]: Passive voice

The following is a recommendation from the Board of Directors of Monarch Books.

"We recommend that Monarch Books open a café in its store. Monarch, having been in business at the same location for more than twenty years, has a large customer base because it is known for its wide selection of books on all subjects. Clearly, opening the café would attract more customers. Space could be made for the café by discontinuing the children's book section, which will probably become less popular given that the most recent national census indicated a significant decline in the percentage of the population under age ten. Opening a café will allow Monarch to attract more customers and better compete with Regal Books, which recently opened its own café."

Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation is likely to have the predicted result. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.

The idea of having a café in a bookstore has become a popular trend around important cities with great affluence of book lovers and graduate students. To introduce cafeterias inside bookstores use to create peaceful environments where

Comment [WU31]: Participle?

students meet to share intellectual ideas and enjoy beautiful conversations around books. The proposal recommended by the Board of Directors of Monarch Books wants to join this popular demand; however, there are several questions and assumptions that have to be specified in order commit a successful plan and attract more costumers.

The first one is that is simplistic thinking that the fact of opening a café will attract more costumers. In my opinion this assumption has to be well studied in order to develop a well-designed and effective plan. To be successful, it is necessary to accomplish a marketing study about the existence of other cafeterias surrounding the bookstore. In the same way that the bookstore has its large costumer base, it is quite probable that other business in the area such as cafés have equally success and acceptance. However, if there is not business around offering this service, the idea of having a café will be a promising success in the light of other business. A final question regarding this point is if the current costumers are really looking for a cafeteria inside the store, they can be interested just in buying books and to not stop by or siting for café.

The second assumption hold by the Board of directors is that they will open the café where is currently located the children books section. That is based in the prevision that the National Census indicated a significant decline in the percentage of the population under age ten. However, it is necessary to known that previsions made by the national census are not completely accurate. They are usually made according the age of the current national population but cannot predict migratory movements from other countries that can suddenly increase the population below ten years old.

In third place, they think that opening a café will allow Monarch to attract more costumers and to be more competitive with Regal books which also has opened its own café. In relation to this assumption it is needed to explain that succeed with this plan depends on several additional and external factors, such as the quality of the cafe and if it is offered to the costumers with some advantage or discount. However, the problem of the library and the need for more costumers can be other one very different from the issue of serving café in the store. Several statistics and studies published by the Harvard School of Management shown that the spreading of the digital market is having an irreversible consequence in all traditional markets but specially in bookstores. This traditional establishments are facing a double problem: on the one hand e-books are a new appealing format for new readers that don't need to be sold at a bookstore, and, on the other hand, the market of printed books has been displaced from physical stores to e-stores such as Amazon. I think that this is a final point that has to be taken in consideration if the target of the new operation is just to increase the number of costumers.

Some people believe that universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study. Others believe that universities should not force students to take any courses other than those that will help prepare them for jobs in their chosen fields.

Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented.

The new challenges of the global world have brought to the forefront old questions regarding two models of education: the so-called professional education and the model of liberal arts. This old dichotomy can be seen today in the current debate between an educational model inclined by a great number of optative choices that looks for education on multiple areas of knowledge and in another one much more professionalized that focus the effort of the student in one single field with the goal of developing a particular profession.

The benefits of the professional model are clear for a neoliberal economy. It is effective, quick and cheap, and it produces a great amount of productive people, what is understood as workforce. I think this model only can be truly interesting for students that show a clear idea or previous experience, and don't feel the need of exploring other fields. Its implantation also can be reasonable because the time in school is highly valuable and expensive, and has to be a good investment for the future. Another of its positives aspects is that more years of education focusing on one particular field have the result of a better professionalization. However, I'm inclined by the model inspired by the liberal arts because I consider that produce much more critical human citizens, which are essential, if not the only motor, to move forward all areas of a society.

In my opinion, this model offers much more benefits for countries with advanced economies, with a strong system for postgraduate education and with great investment in powerful and innovative research programs. The first benefit of requiring the study of different courses beyond one specialization is that offers a great perspective for the future. In addition, the students are allowed to take advantage of their skills in different areas and convey all of them for their own

benefit. That means to be more competitive in relation to students educated in more professional oriented programs.

The second advantage is that to have multiple choices from the beginning allows taking better decisions in order to declare a major based on the students previous capabilities. These are choices made according the real experience of the student in different courses. It has been demonstrated by several statistical studies by researchers in cognitive science from Harvard and Yale that this educational programs drive to the direct success of the student. The first reason is because they are doing what they know that can do well, and the second is the level of confidence engendered in the process.

The third point is that for a great number of students it is more joyful to be confronted to several fields. As consequence they develop a highly productive way of work than having a concentration of courses on the same area during four years, which leads to a state of boredom.