

Unit 08

Free Health Care



Warm-Up

Answer the following questions with a partner.

- 1** Have you or your family ever been in a hospital?
- 2** Do you think doctors should get paid a lot of money? Why or why not?
- 3** Who should pay for your health care, your parents or the government?

Introducing the Topic

When people go to the hospital, they must pay for their medical treatment. Sometimes people cannot afford treatment because it is too expensive. Some governments think this is not fair. They collect taxes from people to help pay for everyone's health care, including the poor. Some people think this is a waste of money because the rich do not need free health care. They can pay for their own health care.

Learning about the Topic

Should governments provide free health care?



Read the passage and underline the supporting arguments in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Health care is one of the most important factors for a good life. People need to be able to get medical treatment when they are sick. Some countries provide free health care for all. Is it time for all countries to provide free health care for every citizen?

Governments Should Provide Free Health Care

First, free health care is a human right. All people deserve medical treatment when they are sick. This is a basic right. However, when nations do not offer free health care, poorer citizens have trouble paying for the treatment they need. Next, providing free



health care benefits all citizens. When people have access to health care, they are **more likely to** be healthy. People who are healthy can work longer. When they work longer, they help their nation's economy. Even though providing free health care costs nations more money, they will have greater economic growth from increased **productivity**.

Governments Should Not Provide Free Health Care

First, if health care were free, some people would **abuse** the system. People would go to the hospital for **conditions** that do not need medical treatment. Patients with serious conditions would have to wait longer to get help. Doctors would also spend less time with each patient. These factors could **decrease** the quality of health care. Next, giving all citizens free health care is a waste of money. Poor citizens may not be able to afford health care. But the wealthy can afford to pay for medical care. Providing free health care for them would be a waste of money.



Vocabulary Check

Choose the correct words to complete the following sentences.

abused more likely to decrease condition productivity

1. My grandfather suffered from a serious heart _____.
2. Sarah seems to be _____ go to college than her brother.
3. Since the workers started using a new computer program, their _____ has improved.
4. The politician was criticized because she _____ her power.
5. Listening to music can _____ your stress level.

Comprehension Questions

Check the correct answer for each question.

1. What happens when nations do not offer free health care?
 - Some people might have difficulty paying for their medical bills.
 - Citizens are required to pay more taxes.
2. How does free health care help a nation's economy?
 - It brings more jobs to the healthcare industry.
 - People with free health care are healthier and work longer.
3. What would happen if people go to the hospital for conditions that are not serious?
 - People who really need medical treatment would have to wait longer.
 - They will be able to get a doctor's note for their illnesses.
4. Why is free health care a waste of money?
 - Providing free health care for the poor costs a lot of money.
 - It is unnecessary when wealthy people can pay for their own health care.

Building Arguments

When you debate, you need to build clear arguments. First, you must choose good supporting arguments for your main argument. Then, you must make supporting examples for each supporting argument. Finally, you need to explain why your opponent's arguments are wrong. This is called a counterargument.



/// Read the questions below and choose the best answers to the questions.

1. Which sentence best summarizes the main argument in favor of free health care?
 - a. Free health care is a human right for all.
 - b. Free health care provides more jobs for medical students.
 - c. Governments do not need to provide free health care.
2. Which sentence is a supporting argument for the main argument you chose above?
 - a. Free health care is intended to help insurance companies get richer.
 - b. Some people prefer to have private health insurance.
 - c. All people deserve the right to get medical treatment when they are sick.
3. Which sentence gives a good supporting example for the supporting argument you chose above?
 - a. Free health care gives all people access to the doctors and medicine they need.
 - b. Private health insurances cover many illnesses and conditions.
 - c. Free health care means that more hospitals need to be built.
4. Which sentence is the best counterargument against the opposite team?
 - a. People should be able to choose their health care on their own.
 - b. Free health care leads to people eating food that is less healthy.
 - c. Free health care benefits all people, including the rich.

Opinion Examples

Read the students' opinions and fill in the blanks with the right words.

Main Argument

Governments should provide free health care.

Everyone should get free health care.

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Free health care is good for everyone. If there is free health care, people can be healthier and have better lives. When my family members are sick and cannot see a doctor, I feel sad about that. But if they get good treatment at the hospital for free, then I know for sure that they will get better. Free health care can let everyone get help when they need it.



Kayla

Summary Kayla believes that _____ health care is good for her _____ members when they are sick.

I disagree! Free health care is a waste of money.

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Free health care for all is a big mistake. If there is free health care, even people with no need for a doctor will go to hospitals. Hospitals will get too crowded. Doctors will not be able to help patients who are seriously sick quickly enough. In addition, the wealthy do not need free health care. They can pay for it themselves.



Jackson

Summary Jackson believes that free health care will make hospitals too _____ and will be a(n) _____ of money.