

• Reading Comprehension 8 Level 10

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

To: Gail Schneider <gail@benzinegallery.org>
From: Johanna Gray <johanna@benzinegallery.org>

Subject: HELP!!!!

Gail,

The new show opens on Friday and I need to begin hanging the paintings today. However, I'm having trouble accommodating all of the artists' demands. As you know, we have six works from four different artists, and we are hanging the paintings next to each other along the long wall in positions 1-6. Position 1 is all the way to the left, next to the entrance. The other spaces continue in numerical order down the wall, with position 6 at the far end. Jacob Rabb wrote to me the other day insisting that he is the most well-known painter in the show and that his piece should be the first one that visitors see when they enter the room, so his painting has to be in position 1, all the way to the left. However, Julian Ledezma gave us three paintings (the other artists only submitted one each), but he insisted that they not be displayed next to one another. What should I do? These artists are driving me crazy!

Thankfully the other two artists are more accommodating. Annie Seabolt has only made one demand. She is a strict vegetarian and asked that no meat be served at the reception. I spoke to the caterers and this should not be a problem. David Garcia has not asked anything of us, thankfully. I think that everything else should be taken care of. I just need to figure out how to hang these paintings!

Johanna

Questions

- 1) Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that which artist's work will hang in position 2?
- A. David Garcia
 - B. Julian Ledezma
 - C. Jacob Rabb
 - D. Annie Seabolt
 - E. Not enough information is provided to answer this question.
- 2) Given the constraints outlined in the passage, it can be inferred that Annie Seabolt's painting could hang in
- I. position 3
 - II. position 5
 - III. position 6
- A. I only
 - B. II only
 - C. I and II only
 - D. II and III only
 - E. I, II, and III
- 3) Gail and Johanna's working relationship can best be described as
- A. suspicious and tentative
 - B. respectful and tolerant
 - C. casual yet productive
 - D. unprofessional and dependent
 - E. collaborative yet formal
- 4) If the author changed the subject line of the email, which of the following would be the most appropriate choice?
- A. Artists' Demands for Friday Reception
 - B. Jacob Rabb Is So Arrogant!
 - C. Friday's Reception—Pictures and Places
 - D. Where to Hang the Paintings?
 - E. Almost Done!

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1, the author writes that there are four artists with work in the show. One of the artists, Julian Ledezma, has three paintings in the show, while the others have only one each. The passage tells us that Jacob Rabb's painting must be in position 1 and Julian Ledezma's three paintings cannot hang next to one another. Using this information, it can be inferred that the only possible places where Julian Ledezma's paintings can hang and not be next to each other are positions 2, 4, and 6. This means that one of Julian Ledezma's paintings will hang in position 2. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, **(D)**, and **(E)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **C**

In paragraph 1, the author writes that there are four artists with paintings in the show. One of the artists, Julian Ledezma, has three paintings in the show, while the others have only one each. The reader knows that Jacob Rabb's painting must be in position 1 and Julian Ledezma's three paintings cannot hang next to one another. So the only possible places where Julian Ledezma's paintings can go are positions 2, 4, and 6. This means there are two possible positions left for Annie Seabolt's painting. It could hang in position 3. This supports **option (I)**. Based on the information above, Annie Seabolt's painting could also hang in position 5. This supports **option (II)**. Based on the information above, one of Julian Ledezma's paintings must hang in position 6. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

3) **C**

Johanna's email to Gail has a casual tone. This tone is evident in the use of unconventional punctuation, such as multiple exclamation points in the subject line, and the use of colloquial expressions, such as "These artists are driving me crazy!" at the end of paragraph 1. While the tone is casual, it does appear that Johanna is doing her work diligently and being productive. As she notes in paragraph 2, she has already called the caterer to take care of Annie Seabolt's demand, and she is working to ensure that the paintings are hung correctly by the established deadline. Also, since Johanna is enlisting Gail's help, we can infer that they will likely work together to produce a solution to the dilemma. This means that their working relationship can best be described as casual yet productive. Therefore **(C)** is correct. There is no suspicion expressed in the passage, so **(A)** is incorrect. While Johanna does seem to respect Gail, the email here is focused on productivity rather than the expression of admiration. Also, there is nothing in the passage to suggest whether Johanna and Gail are tolerant or intolerant of one another, so **(B)** is incorrect. We might be inclined to label Johanna's email unprofessional since it does not follow the formal guidelines of business communication, but email is a less formal medium by default. Colleagues often use a casual tone when writing emails to those with whom they have a close working relationship. If this email were sent to a CEO with whom Johanna has infrequent contact, it might be unprofessional, but the familiar tone of the message here implies that Johanna and Gail have a close working relationship. This means it is too extreme to characterize their relationship as unprofessional. Similarly, although Johanna is asking Gail for help, it is too extreme to label their relationship as dependent. Colleagues often enlist one other to solve problems. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. Though the two women do seem to have a collaborative relationship based on the fact that Johanna is asking Gail for help, the relationship does not seem particularly formal. Johanna's email features numerous asides and informal language that suggests familiarity, not formality. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.

4) **A**

Similar to the title of an essay or the headline of a news article, an email subject line should communicate the main topic of the message. Since business emails often require a response, however, ideally they should also communicate the time frame in which the author expects that response. *Artists' Demands for Friday Reception* does both of these things. Before she even reads the message, Gail knows that Johanna is attempting to deal with the artists' demands, and she knows that the reception is on Friday, so she needs to take action soon. Therefore **(A)** is correct. *Jacob Rabb Is So Arrogant!* communicates only one of the topics of the message, and also it is unprofessional to call a colleague arrogant. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. *Friday's Reception—Pictures and Places* informs the Gail about the deadline—Friday—but *Pictures and Places* only addresses one of the message's topics. In addition to where to put the pictures, the email also includes information about Annie Seabolt's demand for vegetarian food at the reception. This means **(C)** is incorrect. *Where to Hang the Paintings?* communicates the most important topic of the email, but it does not mention which paintings or when action needs to be taken. It also does not address Annie Seabolt's demand for vegetarian food, so **(D)** is incorrect. *Almost Done!* is not only too vague, but it also makes it seem as though Johanna does not need any help when in fact she needs Gail to reply soon. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.