

PROJECT **READi**

The Art Donor

Background: Ms. Clara Bipkins, a wealthy Chicago philanthropist¹ and art collector, would like to donate a painting to a local children's hospital. The painting would hang in the Children's Activity Center of the hospital, the main waiting area for all inpatients and their families. The Children's Activity Center provides a variety of resources, including a play room, workspaces and rest area. As one might imagine, the wait is often stressful, while the family members worry about the successful outcome of the medical procedure. Furthermore, the hospital recognizes that every family member is affected when a child is in the hospital, so they focus on providing purposeful spaces—not only for their patients, but for their siblings, parents and relatives as well.

Problem: Clara Bipkins has an extensive art collection, which she treasures. She has narrowed down her choices for the donation to four paintings. She will give the hospital only one. Since Clara is a very caring human being, she does not want her attachment with the paintings to influence her choice. Therefore, she is seeking guidance from multiple groups of people in making the selection. Here is the question that she needs to answer:

What is the most appropriate painting to adorn the Children's Activity Center at the local children's hospital?

¹ Philanthropist: a person who is wealthy who gives a lot of money to help others and/or support causes.

This activity is adapted from:
McCann, T. M. (2010). Gateways to writing logical arguments. *English Journal*, 33-39.