

While hotels have traditionally held a firm grip on the market of vacation-goers, the emergence of companies fostering short-term rentals are dramatically changing the landscape of the travel industry. Before the advent of the modern online forum, short-term rentals were an arrangement limited by sheer logistics. Information about the availability of (and desire for) a short-term rental was difficult to transmit and share. However, with the current explosion of social media and cyber enterprise, the business model of short-term rentals has blossomed.

In 2011, 40% of travelers reported that they would be staying in a short-term rental during the year, as opposed to a traditional hotel. By 2013, this figure had jumped up to a staggering 49%. The short-term rental business is a \$24 billion market, holding 8% of the total market of U.S. travel. Rapidly expanding and growing with the innovations of creative renters, the question that hangs in the air is what this means for communities. Short-term rentals have had a polarizing effect in many ways, becoming a source of joy for venturists and cause of dismay for many homeowners.

In recent news, there have been incredible scandals in which short-term renters have abused the property loaned to them, causing thousands of dollars' worth of property damage. Other accusations include disturbing the peace and the commission of criminal acts. Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) have been up in arms, and the legal backlash has been significant. New York enacted firm restrictions on short-term renters, and many HOAs now embed limits on the purposes that a space may be used for, barring short-term rentals.

However, this reaction is an over-reaction, and a detrimental one at that. Cities and towns that set hard limits against short-term rentals are halting the economic growth that would otherwise accompany them. Vacationers are likely to be deterred from venturing out to towns that have banned more affordable short-term rentals. While some vacationers might opt to stay at a hotel in desirable locations, as the short-term rental industry continues to grow, it will become more and more likely that vacation-goers will simply choose alternative destinations that actually allow for short-term rentals.

This is not to say, however, that short-term rentals should be completely unregulated. The key is imposing useful regulations that are mutually beneficial to both communities and to the proprietors of short-term rentals. One potential solution would be to impose reasonable taxes on visitors that use short-term rentals; having requirements for minimum stays could also ensure more consistency for the communities. This also has the added

benefit of generating income for towns and cities. There is no reason why communities should see the short-term rental industry as an adversary, when it can just as easily be made into an ally.

1. The purpose of this passage is to _____.

rationalize a negative phenomenon

advocate for a particular position

point out the weaknesses in a widely accepted point of view

provide an objective and unbiased point of view on a complex topic

explain the intersection of community and business

2. The use of the underlined phrase "hard limits" in the context of the fourth paragraph most closely means _____.

useful regulations

overbearing restrictions

unfair rules

restrictions that are uncompromising

impractical barriers

3. The author would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

In general, regulations have proven to do a disservice to travel industry, as the red tape prevents commerce from moving freely, and discourages travel as a whole.

Communities should see short-term rentals as an adversary, when they can just as easily be made an ally.

While short-term rentals and communities would mutually benefit from regulations, a hard ban against them would be counterproductive.

Although short-term rentals are popular right now, it is likely that they will diminish in value as more restrictions are enstated against them.

Hotels and short-term rentals complement each other and can contribute to one another's mutual development.

4. Which of the following most likely explains why Homeowners' Associations do not tend to support short-term rentals?

Homeowners' Associations see short-term rentals as being competition for the market of vacationers.

Short-term rentals do not confer a benefit on the Homeowners' Association that is comparable to that conferred on the proprietor of a short-term rental.

Short-term rentals, due to the transitory nature of their inhabitants, can make the members of a community feel uncomfortable, thereby negatively impacting the Homeowners' Association.

Short-term rentals directly confer extra fees on Homeowners' Associations.

Homeowners' Associations, as a general policy, have always looked down upon short-term rentals because they are unsanitary.

5. The primary purpose of the second paragraph is to _____.

Emphasize the impact that short-term rentals have had on the travel industry, thereby transitioning between the first and third paragraphs.

Convince the reader that short-term rentals are the most significant development in the realm in which the housing industry and the travel industry intersect.

Provide a quantitative valuation of a significant trend that would otherwise be difficult to tangibilize when drawing on subjective terms.

Provide a roadmap for the rest of the passage, given that the first paragraph served as an introductory paragraph to acquaint the reader with the topic.

Argue that short-term rentals have reached their peak, and that they will never command more eminence than that which they currently have.

6. Which of the following, if true, best supports the author's contention that bans against short-term rentals would inhibit economic development?

Many vacationers exclusively use short-term rentals and would be unlikely to visit a town or city without them.

The average vacationer is very flexible with respect to the types of housing that they will use when traveling, which includes the use of short-term rentals.

Many vacationers enjoy short-term rentals and could visit a town or city without them.

Vacationers who enjoy short-term rentals tend to spend more money in tourist destinations.

All vacationers enjoy short-term rentals, but would substitute hotels if they were not available.

"Why Learning Multiple Languages in Graduate School is Important" by Matthew Miner (2013)

In graduate school, students are often required to learn a number of foreign languages in addition to their regular coursework. This can be quite frustrating and difficult, for the normal courses in graduate school require significantly more reading and writing than do undergraduate courses. It is not unusual for graduate students to have regular reading assignments of several hundred pages for each course that they take. Likewise, they often write papers of much greater length than those that they wrote as undergraduate students.

When language examinations are added to this difficult course load, it can be very frustrating for graduate students to try to find the time to prepare for these additional examinations.

Although these frustrations are understandable, this system has not been created solely to cause woe for graduate students. Much of the work for which these students are being prepared will focus on research. While much has been written in English about many topics, adequate research can only be done if one is able to read what people have written in other languages. For instance, there are many important articles and books written about almost every topic by European scholars. If a graduate student does not know any foreign languages, all of these article and books will be impossible to read, and hence useless to their research endeavors. This would be a great loss for a student's research. Therefore, in spite of its frustrating aspects, the language examination process is an important component of graduate school education.

7. Which of the following sentences implies a negative outcome that might occur if graduate students no longer were required to study (and be examined in) foreign languages?

select

This can be quite frustrating and difficult, for the normal courses in graduate school require significantly more reading and writing than do undergraduate courses.

select

Much of the work for which these students are being prepared will focus on research.

select

Although these frustrations are understandable, this system has not been created solely to cause woe for graduate students.

select

If a graduate student does not know any foreign languages, all of these article and books will be impossible to read and hence useless to their research endeavors.

select

Therefore, in spite of its frustrating aspects, the language examination process is an important component of graduate school education.

8. What is the overall purpose of the passage?

select

None of the other answers

select

To list frustrations that are felt about taking language examinations in graduate school

select

To consider the antiquated methods of graduate school education

select

To defend the language examination system found in graduate schools

select

To summarize the state of language exams in graduate schools

« Previous

9. In addition to introducing the topic, what is the purpose of the first paragraph in this passage?

select

To describe the dire plight of students who cannot learn languages well

select

To make a concession and present reasons why people dislike language exams in graduate school

select

To discuss the various means of language examinations used in graduate schools

select

To explain the the justifications for delaying graduate school language exams for several years

select

To advocate on behalf of an elimination of graduate school language exams

10. What is the purpose of the second paragraph in this passage?

select

To disagree with the methods of examining often proposed by students

select

To present the author's argument that the language exams in question are, in fact, reasonable

select

To argue on behalf of an increase in the number of language exams from their current number

select

To condemn the laziness of those students who dislike graduate school language examinations

select

To remark on the marvels of language and the enlightenment that it affords

Adapted from “Introductory Remarks” in *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud (trans. 1913)

In attempting to discuss the interpretation of dreams, I do not believe that I have overstepped the bounds of neuropathological interest. For, when investigated psychologically, the dream proves to be the first link in a chain of abnormal psychic structures whose other links—the hysterical phobia, the obsession, and the delusion—must interest the physician for practical reasons. The dream can lay no claim to a corresponding practical significance; however, its theoretical value is very great, and one who cannot explain the origin of the content of dreams will strive in vain to understand phobias, obsessive and delusional ideas, and likewise their therapeutic importance.

While this relationship makes our subject important, it is responsible also for the deficiencies in this work. The surfaces of fracture, which will be frequently discussed, correspond to many points of contact where the problem of dream formation informs more comprehensive problems of psychopathology which cannot be discussed here. These larger issues will be elaborated upon in the future.

Peculiarities in the material I have used to elucidate the interpretation of dreams have rendered this publication difficult. The work itself will demonstrate why all dreams related in scientific literature or collected by others had to remain useless for my purpose. In choosing my examples, I had to limit myself to considering my own dreams and those of my patients who were under psychoanalytic treatment. I was restrained from utilizing material derived from my patients' dreams by the fact that during their treatment, the dream processes were subjected to an undesirable complication—the intermixture of neurotic characters. On the other hand, in discussing my own dreams, I was obliged to expose more of the intimacies of my psychic life than I should like, more so than generally falls to the task of an author who is not a poet but an investigator of nature. This was painful, but unavoidable; I had to put up with the inevitable in order to demonstrate the truth of my psychological results at all. To be sure, I disguised some of my indiscretions through

omissions and substitutions, though I feel that these detract from the value of the examples in which they appear. I can only express the hope that the reader of this work, putting himself in my difficult position, will show patience, and also that anyone inclined to take offense at any of the reported dreams will concede freedom of thought at least to the dream life.

11. The author has written this passage in order to _____.

discuss common causes of nightmares

propose a psychological experiment

teach the reader how to interpret his or her own dreams

respond to a specific critic who has cast doubt on his work's reliability

justify his work and address some of its limitations

12. In the third paragraph, what does the author tell us about the omissions and substitutions he made when discussing his own dreams in the work that follow the passage?

He is glad that he had the opportunity to reconsider his initial presentation of his dreams.

He feels that the adjusted examples would be more useful had they remained unadjusted.

He was forced to make these, or journals would not accept his work.

He is not responsible for these; his editors are.

He doesn't think that they affect the work whatsoever, and help him save face.

13. In the last sentence of the passage, the author attempts to _____.

explain why he made certain redactions to the dreams he later discusses

encourage the reader to read the work of a variety of psychologists

inspire the reader to conduct his or her own scientific experiments

emphasize why his work is valuable, despite its flaws

get the reader to empathize with him

14. The author can be most accurately described as _____.

whimsical and descriptive

imploring and desperate

defensive and meticulous

unreliable and suspicious

furious and insulted

15. The author argues that understanding the content of dreams is necessary for _____.

understanding delusional ideas

understanding the rest of the work from which this passage is drawn

accurately diagnosing a number of psychological conditions in patients

comprehending the therapeutic importance of dreams

understanding why he had difficulty choosing dreams to discuss in the work that follows

16. The author discusses a topic that he plans to pursue in future work _____.

nowhere in the passage

in the last sentence of the passage

in the second paragraph of the passage

in the first and last paragraphs of the passage

in the first sentence of the passage

17. Based on what is stated in the passage, one can infer that the author _____.

believes himself to have no “intermixture of neurotic characters”

is participating in a tradition of studying dreams in a psychological light

is not himself a psychologist

is famous

is unable to make sense of his own dreams

18. According to the author, studying phobias, obsessions, and delusions is _____, but studying dreams is not.

useless

possible

easy

wasteful

practical

19. The author could not rely upon the dreams related in scientific literature because _____.

not many dreams had been discussed in scientific literature, and those that had been discussed concerned a very limited number of topics

he needed to interview people himself in order to discuss their emotional reactions to their dreams

The author does not give a reason for this in the passage, but says that the rest of his work explains why this is the case.

he couldn't be sure if material had been changed in or censored from them

no work of scientific literature had discussed dreams at the time the author began his study

The business model of internet cafes is no longer capable of success in the United States. This is because the availability of internet has skyrocketed over the past several years. Free wifi is offered in most major coffee shops and stores. Additionally, Americans have mobile devices with plans that provide them with internet access. For those without devices, public libraries also provide computers offering internet access, free of charge.

20. The argument depends on which of the following assumptions?

Internet cafes can still be profitable in other countries, just not the United States.

Public libraries are the only accessible locations where anyone can use the internet.

Major coffee shops are in direct competition with internet cafes.

Internet cafes were profitable five years ago.

Internet cafes do not offer any other services, aside from online access, that would enable them to be profitable.

