

Guided Writing

Reading

1 Read the text and choose the best description.

- a It gives a balanced view of installation art.
- b It argues in favour of installation art.
- c It argues against installation art.

In recent years, 'installation' artists have been defending their art against its critics. Installation art is a piece of sculpture, using everyday materials, and can include audio, video and even smells. But is it fine art or low culture?

One example of installation art is Tracey Emin's *My Bed*. This features an unmade bed with dirty sheets and personal items. Emin says her work deals with intimacy and exhibits a deeply personal moment in her life. Nevertheless, her critics are more dismissive. Many people say her only talent is talking about herself. According to art critic David Lee, her work is more about publicity than actual content.

Another installation artist, Romuald Hazoumè, has been selling his African face masks, made from the tops of plastic oil cans, for up to \$10,000. Some people say that he has been making good money from a single idea, although he says his work is a statement on exploitation of Africa by the oil industry.

I think that the criticism of Emin is probably justified. On the other hand, Hazoumè has created some inspiring concepts. In my opinion, installation art can be either fine art or low culture, depending on the skill of the artist.

2 Match the parts of the text 1-4 with their functions a-d.

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|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | the opening paragraph | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | a first example | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | a second example | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | the closing paragraph | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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- a presents a first argument for or against the topic
 - b summarises the arguments and makes a conclusion
 - c introduces the subject and states the aims of the text
 - d presents a second argument for or against the topic

