

Fix Chicago?

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

With 2.7 million people, Chicago is America's _____ largest city. It's famous for deep dish pizza and spectacular _____. It's also famous for violence.

Chicago has a history of _____ turbulence, but the problems seem to be getting worse. In 2016, there were about 700 murders. That's more than all of Canada or the UK in 2015. In addition to _____, about 4000 people were shot. That's almost 80 people per week.

Why is the city so violent? There are many ideas about _____ causes. Guns, gangs and drugs are common reasons along with _____ and unemployment.

Can anything be done to curb _____ violence? With insufficient funding, deep corruption and shocking _____ gaps, the answer might be no.

The city is billions of dollars in _____. Even if someone had a great idea to fix Chicago's massive problems, there really isn't much money available to _____ solutions.

Corruption runs deep in Chicago politics. Bribery, _____ and graft are all bad because they influence government spending. According to one study, corrupt governments spend more on construction projects and police and less on education, health and welfare. In other words, the services that _____ people need to improve their lives don't receive enough support.

Finally, Chicago is a _____ city. The northern part is wealthy and beautiful. The southern and western parts are poor and _____. The contrasts are stark. Museums and murder. Galleries and ghettos.

Whatever the cause, one thing seems clear. The old ways of _____ a society – economic growth that produces benefits for all coupled with government spending – don't seem to work anymore. If _____ can't be found for Chicago, what then lies ahead for similar cities in America and around the world where entire _____ people are left to struggle on their own while small groups _____ ?

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. spectacular | a. violence |
| 2. turbulence | b. breathtaking |
| 3. root cause | c. slum |
| 4. ghetto | d. colossal |
| 5. massive | e. main reason |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Chicago is America's fifth largest city. T or F
2. In 2016, about 80 people were killed each week. T or F
3. Northern Chicago has museums and galleries. T or F
4. Public health is a low priority compared to education and construction. T or F
5. Economic growth is a solution to poverty. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

CIOASL _____

CSEAU _____

YOREVPT _____

RLUETSGG _____

GOSKIHCN _____

USINNCETFFII _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. Why is crime such a big problem in that city?
 3. What is graft? Can you think of any examples?
 4. In what way is Chicago a divided city?
 5. Can money fix the problems?
 6. Does this story have a message?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. southern / poor / western / and / down / run / parts / and / the / are
-

2. famous / for / violence / it's / also
-

3. dollars / the / city / debt / in / of / billions / is
-

4. causes / about / ideas / root / many / there / are
-

5. a / turbulence / worse / history / has / be / of / social / seem / getting / but / Chicago / problems / to / the
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