

EXERCISE I—Words in Context

From the list below, supply the words needed to complete the paragraph. Some words will not be used.

concur intrepid cynical destitute
dilemma ambivalent culmination

- A. One year after the _____ of the second Mineral War, the surviving inhabitants of the Europa mining colony endured _____ living conditions. The chief engineer tried her best to restore the food reprocessing system, but, owing to the lack of replacement parts, the unit could produce only thirty percent of the colony's nutritional needs. Captain Keith remained _____ about leading a few _____ miners on a necessary but dangerous expedition to the old generation plant in the Nova Crater to salvage parts for the rapidly declining life support system. Most of the miners were _____ about their fate at the colony, and Captain Keith would have been lying if he said that he didn't _____ with their pessimistic opinions.

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culmination demagogue concur erudite dilemma demure

- B. Clayton surprised everyone in Selbyville when he entered the race for mayor. For twenty-six years, he had been the mild-mannered, _____ clerk at the Selbyville Courthouse. Well-versed in history and politics, the _____ Clayton never really struck anyone as having the type of personality required to win an election, let alone become the mayor. Word spread quickly when, during a special pre-election meeting, Clayton stood at the podium and delivered an impressive speech. Every word was loaded with passion, especially when Clayton addressed Selbyville's _____ of accepting or rejecting a controversial landfill. After ten minutes of rhetoric, Clayton had the townspeople shouting their support, and the sentiment continued right through to the election, after which Clayton became the new mayor. Three months later, the citizens of Selbyville discovered that Clayton was just a[n] _____ when construction of the new landfill began, and he mysteriously bought a new speedboat that was well beyond the range of a typical small-town mayor's salary.

Challenge: For the Words in Context exercise above, write ONE coherent sentence or paragraph using ALL of the words NOT utilized in the exercise at least once.

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