



CPGE – ENGLISH • ELEMENTS OF CORRECTION

Lesson 4 - Who is celebrating and how

Key issue

Why is the organisation of America's 250th anniversary more complex and politically divided than it initially appears?

1 Read and 2 Select key information

Group A From confusion to controversy

- The two organisations: America250 supports the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, created by Congress. Freedom 250 is a Trump-administration public-private partnership. The two bodies are not connected.
- Trigger: performers withdrew from the Great American State Fair, saying they had been misled about political involvement.
- Competing claims: artists say they were promised a nonpartisan celebration of all states; Freedom 250 maintains that it is nonpartisan and devoted to national unity.

Group B America250

- Origin: supports the commission established by a 2016 act of Congress; planning predates Trump's first presidency.
- Leadership: Republican and Democratic lawmakers sit on the bipartisan commission. Private citizens, including Rosie Rios and Jennifer Condon, lead the nonprofit arm.
- Model: public and local celebrations, including America's Block Party, the Super Bowl patch and the Artemis II flag.

À retenir : bipartisan signifie que les deux grands partis sont représentés ; nonpartisan désigne une volonté de ne pas servir un parti. Les deux termes ne sont donc pas interchangeables.

Group C Freedom 250

- Origin: developed from Trump's executive order establishing Task Force 250. Trump chairs the task force; JD Vance is its vice-chair.
- Political connections: daily management is not clearly identified. Event Strategies Inc. and Trump ally Justin Caporale play a central operational role. ESI produced the January 6 rally that preceded the Capitol attack.

- Model: spectacular events centred on Washington, including the Great American State Fair, Salute to America fireworks, Patriot Games and Rededicate 250 prayer celebration.

Group D What is at stake

- Funding: both nonprofits may keep donors confidential. America250 lists corporate sponsors; Freedom 250 identifies selected strategic partners without listing its major donors.
- Oversight: the commission supported by America250 must report annually to Congress. The article describes Freedom 250 as lacking congressional or independent oversight.
- Federal funds: \$150 million was earmarked for anniversary events, with distribution handled by the Interior Department. The law does not name either organisation, and their respective allocations remain unclear.
- Concerns: senators questioned possible mixing of taxpayer, private and foreign funds. Ethics groups raised possible conflicts of interest involving corporate donors with business before the administration.

3 Share your notes and synthesise

Model answer

America's 250th anniversary is being organised by two separate nonprofits with overlapping claims of national unity but different institutional profiles. America250 supports a commission created by Congress in 2016, has bipartisan leadership and promotes decentralised civic celebrations under congressional oversight. Freedom 250 stems from a Trump executive order and favours spectacular patriotic events closely associated with the president. Its less transparent management and funding, together with artists' claims that they were misled, have turned an apparently consensual commemoration into a political controversy.

What must remain visible

America250	Freedom 250
Congressional commission established in 2016.	Developed from a presidential executive order.
Bipartisan framework; commission reports to Congress.	Close presidential connections; no independent oversight described.
Local civic events and symbolic partnerships.	Large patriotic spectacles and religious or sporting events.
Sponsors listed, although full disclosure is not required.	Major donors not listed; selected partners identified.

Useful links: both... but... • whereas • unlike • although • therefore. Each connector should express a real relationship between ideas.

4 Contract

Step 1 80 words plus or minus 10 percent

America's 250th anniversary involves two unrelated nonprofits claiming unity. America250 supports a congressionally created, bipartisan commission that reports annually, and coordinates decentralised celebrations. Freedom 250, stemming from Trump's executive order establishing a task force he chairs, stages spectacular patriotic events through less transparent management. Although neither must disclose donors, Freedom 250 lacks independent oversight. Unclear federal funding, potential conflicts of interest and artists' withdrawals after allegedly misleading assurances have therefore made the commemoration politically divisive rather than a shared celebration.

Step 2 45 words plus or minus 5 words

Two nonprofits claim to unite Americans. Unlike America250's bipartisan, congressionally supervised framework, Trump-linked Freedom 250 combines spectacular patriotism with opaque management and funding. Artists' withdrawals, uncertain federal financing and potential conflicts of interest reveal political divisions beneath the rhetoric of a supposedly shared national anniversary.