

## Module 8 Assignment

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The two major conflicting ideas I am focused on are "art for art's sake" versus "art for society."

An important problem that exists because of one conflict between these ideas is that there are different ideas on the purpose and function of art. Some see art as a tool for the artist to convey their feelings and thoughts, regardless of society's expectations, and believe that art should be created for its own sake. Others argue that art should serve society by meeting its needs and expectations, educating, or sending a message.

I would begin by making this introductory comment about this conflict: I think that art has a powerful way of teaching and connecting us to our emotions and experiences. It offers a unique perspective that can inspire empathy and understanding, paving the way for personal and societal growth. Art can challenge and evoke change, making it an invaluable tool for learning and communication.

In other words, artists who embrace the view of art for art's sake create works to showcase their creativity and talents. Even though these artists create works of art, inspired by their inner worlds, without paying attention to the expectations and needs of society, I think they still serve society because they bring different perspectives to society.

For example, if individuals in oppressed societies did not use art, no one would know the hardships they had to silently endure. For example, through hip-hop music, African Americans and Latinos found a voice to express their struggles, dreams, and realities. This type of storytelling allowed them to address issues of poverty, violence, and racism.

To illustrate my point, in his song "Açaí," Brazilian singer Djavan eloquently portrays the harsh living conditions faced by poor individuals in the Amazon, highlighting their struggle with hunger and the limited resources available to them. Through the metaphor of Açaí as their primary source of sustenance, Djavan sheds light on the challenges and realities of poverty in the region, using music as a powerful tool to raise awareness and provoke empathy towards those living in such circumstances.

One reasonable objection to my position is as follows Djavan has been the target of criticism because of this song, and how he has placed metaphors in such a way that the lyrics may not mean much to the first reader. At that point, Djavan said, "Those who do not understand art should not listen to my songs" and cut it short.

I will answer this objection as follows: Sometimes, even artists who say they do art for art's sake get their share of the values, contradictions, and troubles of the society they live in and open different windows for themselves by using art in their emotional inner self. Although these windows seem to be only for the artist to heal himself, they also help others.