

Real World Graduation: Question 31

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19 May 2018

Question 31

If the NFL team in a given city wins the Super Bowl, in what ways do the people living in that city and its surrounding suburbs benefit?

- a) Sense of accomplishment
- b) Increased economic opportunities
- c) Increased revenue from tourism
- d) Prestige
- e) All of the above

Answer to Question 31

This is a trick question. All of the answers are false.

As for sense of accomplishment per a), the players and coaches on the team certainly accomplished a difficult task, but the other people living in the city did not. They are simply spectators at most.

Regarding answers b) and c), there is no evidence that a city with a winning NFL team, or any winning team, gains any material economic or social benefits. A city does not become a long-term tourist destination because a sports team based there won a championship. If a city is a tourist destination, it is for other reasons: unique history (Boston, Washington), party life (Las Vegas, New Orleans, Miami), good vacation attractions (San Diego, Los Angeles, Miami), or access to wilderness areas (Seattle, Portland, Denver), among many others.

As for prestige per answer d), quick, which team won the Super Bowl after the 1996 season? Who cares? Assuming you remember which team it was, does that city hold any actual prestige in your mind because a football team headquartered there won a championship that year?