NEWS BREAK

Article: ‘No-poach’ fight could move on to hotels

Section: Business, D1

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from Sunday, September 16, 2018 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will talk about poaching and who will benefit from this new agreement. They will discuss whether it will hurt or help the current employees. They will debate whether healthy competition in the business sector a good thing and describe how companies retain employees they want to keep. They’ll also talk about whether they would be open to this new agreement if they were a Washington business owner.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

- Do you know who this person is and what they do for Washington?
- What do you think the article will be about?
- Are there clues in the picture?
- What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Business leaders have said that greenlighting worker poaching exacerbates difficulties they already experience finding and retaining staff.”

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

Poaching Guess:

Poaching Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Eight more national fast-food chains have acquiesced to Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson’s campaign to end ‘no-poaching’ agreements. What does this mean?
2. What companies is he looking into targeting for this same no-poaching agreement next?
3. What are the four latest fast-food chains to enter the agreement?
4. Together, the agreements ban enforcement nationwide of no-poaching agreements among most of the major fast-food companies that have a
presence in Washington, Ferguson said in an interview Thursday. What will the practice restrict?

5. Some fast-food companies have resisted changing their practices as they contend with what issues?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- Who do you think benefits from this new agreement?
- Does it hurt or help employees? How?
- Is healthy competition in the business sector a good thing? Why or why not?
- Is retention (keeping employees) driven by being in a place they want to work and are happy or by creating laws that they can’t leave or be hired somewhere else, etc.?
- If you ran a company, would you want an agreement like this? Why or why not?

“This train’s only going in one direction: We’re going to eliminate these no-poach agreements across the board, industry by industry,” Ferguson said. “We’re not going to stop until they’re gone.”

Ferguson said he told the fast-food companies he’d sue them unless they agreed to end enforcement of no-poach deals nationwide. The attorney general is still investigating five other fast-food companies, including Domino’s and Baskin-Robbins, which have not agreed to a settlement, according to his office.

- Should the state sue if certain companies won’t agree to the terms?
- Do you think companies poaching employees from other companies is a good or bad thing? Why or why not?
- Is competition in the workplace a good thing? Why or why not?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2018 The Seattle Times Company
Newsbreak Answer Key: September 16, 2018

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Poaching: Take or acquire in an unfair or clandestine way. "Employers risk having their newly trained workers poached by other companies."

Comprehension Answers:

1. By which franchisees agree not to hire each other’s employees.
2. Hotels
3. Burger King, Pizza Hut, Papa John’s and Denny’s
4. The practice restricts worker mobility and decreases competition for labor by preventing workers from moving among the chains’ franchise locations, Ferguson said.
5. An escalating employee turnover rate and slower customer traffic.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions: Answers will vary