

NEWS BREAK

Article: Goldman eases dress code — but what is ‘flexible’?

Section: BUSINESS, D5

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, March 10, 2019**, 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 discuss dress codes in the workplace. They'll talk about what their parents wear to work. They'll also debate what is acceptable vs. appropriate clothing to wear to work for both teens and adults. Students will talk about what suits symbolize in the workplace and what casual Fridays mean to them. They'll also discuss whether clothing people wear reflect their character and/or intelligence.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about? Are there clues in the pictures?
- 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.

The ***tongue-in-cheek*** poll pointed to a question gripping workplaces in an era when business casual — whatever that means — has become so accepted that even the most buttoned-up symbol of Wall Street power has surrendered to it.

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

Tongue-in-cheek Guess:

Tongue-in-cheek Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. NEW YORK — Goldman Sachs pinned a poll to its Twitter account asking what its employees should wear to work now that the investment bank has relaxed its dress code. What came in first and second place?
2. The 150-year-old company sent an internal memo last week announcing the time was right “to move to firm wide _____ dress code” while urging its 36,000 employees to “exercise good judgment in this regard.”
3. When did the drift toward relaxed workplaces begin?
4. When did a relaxed workplace become entrenched?
5. “Goldman was one of the last holdouts of a more _____ dress code,” Burke said.
6. What is the traditional dress code a symbol of?
7. So, what constitutes acceptable professional attire these days?

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

- What do your parents wear to work?
- What is acceptable vs. appropriate clothing to wear to work for teenagers? Adults?
- What does a suit symbolize in the workplace?
- What does “Casual Fridays” mean to you?
- Does the clothing you wear reflect your character or intelligence? 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.

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Newsbreak Answer Key: March 10, 2019

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Tongue-in-cheek: With ironic or flippant intent. "Her delightful tongue-in-cheek humor."

Comprehension Answers:

1. The winning choice: "Hoodie & sneakers" at 38 percent. But "suit" came in a solid second place at 28 percent.
2. Flexible
3. In the 1990s when companies started introducing "casual Fridays," said Robert Burke, CEO of Robert Burke Associates, a retail and fashion consulting firm.
4. It rapidly became entrenched with the rise of West Coast tech giants like Amazon and Facebook and their young moguls.
5. Formal
6. The dress code is symbolic of a deeper cultural transformation at financial firms, which are trying to project themselves as innovation hubs where individuality and autonomy is emphasized.
7. The "midtown uniform" — slacks, button-downed shirt and fleece vest — has become something of a refuge for men trying to navigate a more laid-back culture fertile for missteps.

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

Questions: Answers will vary