

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Dakotas shun masks, lead to U.S. in virus growth**

Section: **MAIN, A3**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, September 13, 2020** 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 teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read 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 the controversy of wearing masks in the Dakotas. They'll talk about their own experience wearing masks, how their families deal with the new rules and whether they have been following the health mandates themselves. They'll discuss whether wearing a mask is important to stopping the spread of Covid-19 and why some people may not be taking these orders seriously. Students will talk about their own personal stance on wearing masks and whether they feel wearing one is a personal freedom issue, or a violation of civil rights. Students will also talk about states that are opening schools and universities and holding mass gatherings amid a global pandemic.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- 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.

“The Republican governors of both states have **eschewed** mask requirements.”

***Eschewed* Guess:**

***Eschewed* Definition:**

Comprehension Questions:

1. Coronavirus infections in the Dakotas are growing faster than anywhere else in the nation, fueling debates over what two things?
2. Health experts warn that the infections must be contained before care systems are what?
3. What have the Covid-19 infections been spurred by?
4. Health officials point out that the coronavirus case increases have been among what age group?
5. More than _____ students at the states’ four largest universities left campus to quarantine after being exposed to the virus.
6. What were the “known” after-effects of the Sturgis Rally?
7. Requiring masks in the Dakotas has been controversial. Why?

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

- Have you been wearing masks in public or when near other people/friends? Why or why not?
- Does your family take mask-wearing seriously in public locations? Why or why not?
- Do you think wearing a mask is important in stopping Covid-19? Why or why not?
- Why are some people not taking it seriously? Why are some people choosing not to wear masks and calling it a freedom issue? Do you agree or disagree with their thought process?
- What do you think about states allowing students to go back to school and universities? Allowing mass gatherings, when health officials are telling us not to?
- Do you think requiring a mask in public locations is a violation of civil liberties? 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 © 2020 The Seattle Times Company