

NEWS BREAK

Article: **THE LONELINESS OF THE REMOTE WORKER**

Section: **JOBS, C14**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, November 15, 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 whether they've felt lonely or isolated during this pandemic and if there's anything that helps them cope with those feelings. They will discuss their parent's feelings, in regards to working from home and how their work lives have changed. Students will discuss ways their family takes mental breaks which helps to de-stress. They will talk about how their social interactions with others have changed since the pandemic and how they are connecting with friends and family at this time. They will also discuss feeling value, whether it's important in the human experience and if they feel valued.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture? Are there clues?
- 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.

“**Camaraderie**” is the No. 1 thing people look forward to about an eventual return to the office.

Camaraderie Guess:

Camaraderie Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. The Great Work From Home Experiment of 2020 has gone on for nearly eight months, and preliminary results are coming in. Overall, surveys suggest that most of us like it most of the time, except for one thing: We feel _____.
2. The convenience of working from home has a downside for many employees: It can feel quite _____.
3. Those who hold a modicum of power over other people may be especially afflicted. Managers and leaders get affirmation from having their teams around them; it’s a tangible reminder of their _____.

4. Leading remotely thus might not be as _____ as the real thing. At the same time, managers feel no less pressure to deliver for their own bosses.
5. With virus cases on the rise, especially in Europe and the U.S., it seems unlikely that many people will be heading back to the _____ soon.
6. The people who are happiest having an independent career spend the most time building connections to what four areas?
7. Creating connections independently takes more _____.
8. "What's the difference between loneliness and solitude?" Petriglieri asks.
9. The pandemic may have erased our ability to run into one another at the coffee machine, but it's also provided more in sight into what?

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

- ***Have you felt lonely or isolated during this pandemic?***
- ***Is there anything that helps you cope with these feelings? (Walk outside, playing with your pets, exercise, reading, hobbies, etc...)***
- ***As a student, did this article shine light on what your parents might be feeling, if they work from home? Have you thought about how their work lives have changed?***
- ***What do your parents do to de-stress or take a break?***

"Loneliness" is often at the top of the list of down sides to remote work. Feeling lonesome is not only a side effect of working from home. Our social interactions outside work have also been curtailed.

- ***How has your social interactions with others changed since the pandemic?***
- ***How do you still connect with friends and family at this time?***

And as Jane Austen once wrote, "to flatter and follow others without being flattered and followed in turn is but a state of half enjoyment." Behind the arch language is a human truth: Everyone needs to feel valued.

- ***What does it mean to feel valued? Is it important in the human experience? Do you feel valued?***

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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