

***Civic Minds in The Seattle Times***

**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2015

**E-Edition Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2015

**Article Title:** Teachers strike; no class today

**Section:** Main, A1

**Vocabulary:**

Look up the definition of **truncate** & write the definition & create a new sentence using your own words.

After the vote, Board President Sherry Carr said going to court may help **truncate** the length of the strike.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Seattle teachers will be on strike Wednesday, the first time in \_\_\_\_\_ years they have walked out over stalled contract negotiations with the city's school district.
2. And just minutes after the union bargaining team made its announcement Tuesday evening, the Seattle School Board voted to authorize the superintendent to seek what?
3. How many students are in the Seattle School District?
4. Shortly before midnight Monday, the district had offered a \$62 million proposal as a counter to the \$\_\_\_\_\_ million union proposal, according to the district.
5. What issues were resolved among the two sides over the weekend?
6. What are the unresolved issues?
7. In the state budget passed this spring, lawmakers boosted school funding across the state by about \$\_\_\_\_\_ billion over the next two years. Seattle Public Schools' share of that is roughly \$\_\_\_\_\_ million, and the union wanted some of that to go to raises.
8. What was the state record for the longest teacher strike? What district?

**Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:**

- ***Do you understand the main issues and concerns behind them striking? What are they?***
- ***Do you think teachers are underpaid and undervalued? Why or why not?***
- ***How long do you think the strike will last? Do you think they can go back to classes and still mediate? What other options do teachers have?***

***"We are committed to continuing negotiations," Carr, board president, said at Tuesday's School Board meeting. She noted, however, that the failed negotiations were a "textbook case" of a broken K-12 funding system and a "deep overreliance" on local property-tax levies to fund education.***

- What does the above statement mean to you?

***"It's disappointing that the school board is grasping at legalistic straws rather than focusing on ways to provide the supports that educators need to be successful with students," Knapp said in***

**a statement earlier this week. “We won’t be scared into abandoning our commitment to winning a fair contract.”**

- Is the district supporting their educators and helping them be successful with their students? Why or why not?

**Seattle City Councilmembers Kshama Sawant, Nick Licata and John Okamoto also urged the School Board to vote against considering legal action. In a letter to the board, they said they believe that the union’s proposals are reasonable, and in the best interest of Seattle students. “However, regardless of one’s opinions on the union’s demands, the educators’ democratic right to speak out, organize unions, and go on strike must be defended,” they wrote.**

- Why are unions so important?

### **Essay**

**Do you support the Seattle Teacher’s Strike? Why or why not? Provide details to support your position on this issue.**

### **Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy**

**How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.**

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

**Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.**

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