

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

June 9, 2016

Articles

- **“UW cuts social-science TA jobs as undergrads pick science, math”** Thursday, June 2, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Deaths, Funerals, page B2
- **“Welcome to Map Your Career: Career Paths in Health Care”** Sunday, June 5, 2016 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Sports, page C5

Pre-Reading:

What is your favorite subject in school? Why? Make a list of all the careers you can think of that use this subject.

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

abandoning

accelerate

budget

candidate

departments

dissertation

enrollment

inflation

limitations

mitigate

revenue

salary

stewards

tuition

Comprehension:

1. How many Teaching Assistant jobs does University of Washington's largest college plan to cut?
2. By how much has enrollment in the history, political science, sociology, geography and anthropology departments dropped in recent years?
3. Meanwhile, where is UW's enrollment growing?
4. What is believed to be the reason for the enrollment shifts?
5. What is the reasoning that Robert Stacey gives as to why the UW must cut jobs?
6. How long are most Ph.D. candidates guaranteed teaching assistant work?
7. Why is it difficult to complete an advanced degree in five years?

Post-Reading:

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

“Educators have been encouraging students to study fields such as science, math, engineering and technology because that’s where the jobs are. The shift in majors shows students are listening, Stacey said.”

Do you think that it is fair for the university to cut TA jobs in the social sciences? Why/why not? Should students pick what they study based on the jobs they are able to get? What else do you think should be a factor in what students choose to study? Is it true that there are more jobs in health care and engineering than in anthropology and political science? Why? Do you think that eventually people will completely stop studying social sciences?

Building Language Skills: “Welcome to Map Your Career: Career Paths in Health Care”

Read and look at the “**Welcome to Map Your Career: Career Paths in Health Care**” infographic. What do you notice? What kind of jobs are on the map? What kind of subjects do you think you need to study in school to get a career in health care? Why are health care jobs important? Pick a health care job, from the infographic and research it online. See if you can figure out what sorts of topics you would need to study in order to be successful at this job. How does the infographic connect to the article you just read about what students are choosing to study at UW?

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. About 25
2. Between 4 and 45 percent
3. In the chemistry, math, biology, statistics, and physics departments as well as in other colleges to study computer science, engineering and global health.
4. Educators have been encouraging students to study fields such as science, math, engineering and technology because that's where the jobs are.
5. Because the university's revenue is not increasing
6. For five years
7. Because of the research required to finish a dissertation