

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

October 20, 2016

Article: “Field Notes from Life with Trump Faithful”

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 in the print replica of The Seattle Times, NW Wednesday, B1

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Objective:

Students will engage in a class discussion to answer the question “What is culture?” and examine how different cultures exist within the United States.

Pre-Reading:

Create your own definition for culture, or use the following definition to facilitate a discussion about what culture is:

“A **culture** is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.”¹

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.

careened

charitable

deplorable

enclave

genuine

hemorrhage

incensed

¹ <https://www.tamu.edu/faculty/choudhury/culture.html>

lurches
marginalized
potent
reputation
sociologist
unmoored
visceral
xenophobia

Comprehension:

1. What is the author (Danny Westneat) referring to when he says “our blue bubble”?
2. Who made the claim that he could “shoot someone on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and it wouldn’t faze his backers a bit”?
3. Where is Arlie Hochschild from originally?
4. Why does Hochschild believe that the label “deplorables” is unfair?
5. Briefly explain Hochschild’s line metaphor in your own words, how might it apply to both Sanders and Trump supporters?

Post-Reading:

After reading the article, discuss the following questions in a group:

What are some different cultures that exist in the United States? How about in your city? What about in your neighborhood? How are politics and culture related? What kinds of behaviors, beliefs and values do some of the different cultures you discussed have?

Building Language Skills:

After reading the article, complete the activity below:

Pick one of the cultures that you discussed as a class and conduct research on that culture – either by reading articles online or interviewing someone that is a part of that culture. Then write a short piece describing that culture. Reflect on what you learned: What is difficult about learning about other cultures? Do you think you can be objective when observing other cultures? Why is it important to learn about other cultures?

For more information about the upcoming election, please review the following NIE supplement, “Election 2016: Your Critical Role in the Election Process”, available at: <https://ad.seattletimes.com/FlippingBook/NIE/2016/LeagueofWomenVoters/>

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. The generally liberal/left leaning political culture in Seattle.
2. Donald Trump
3. From Berkeley California
4. They're complex, mostly generous but flawed people — kind of like people everywhere.
5. Answers will vary;

We're all standing in a line, the progress line, and at the end is the American dream. But the line hasn't been moving. Sometimes it even lurches backward. Then, up ahead, egged on by liberals and President Obama, other people, such as immigrants, are allowed to cut in.

"So they [Trump Supporters] feel pushed back in the line, marginalized, unseen," Hochschild says. "They've developed a visceral dislike for what they see as the ally of the line-cutters — the government.

The Bernie Sanders movement on the left was also a reaction to line-cutting — only in that view the people getting unfairly ahead are Wall Street, the 1-percenters and tax-avoiding billionaires like Trump.