

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

November 17, 2016

Article: “Somali immigrants’ daughter helps others get on path to college”

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 in the print replica of The Seattle Times, NWTuesday, page B2

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Objective:

Students will read an article and conduct research about scholarships and the college application process.

Pre-Reading:

Make a mind map with “college” as the center word. What do you know about college? What do you know about the college application process?

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.

ambition

blip

entrepreneurial

fostered

gape

gauntlet

hijab

initially

mobilize

navigate

Rhetoric

Comprehension:

1. Ahlaam Ibrahim is the daughter of immigrants from where?
2. What is Ahlaam majoring in?
3. Most of the young men and women that have come to meetings of Educating the Horn will be what?
4. Ahlaam's parents tell her that they came to the US for what reason?
5. What does Ahlaam say about how Donald Trump's election made her feel?
6. Where did Ahlaam spend her elementary years?
7. The next meeting of Educating the Horn is designed as what?

Post-Reading:

“Yet Beach’s small size also fostered a sense of family and encouraged her to take a full slate of International Baccalaureate courses. Last spring, she learned that she’d earned a full scholarship to the UW. Only later did she realize how unusual that was.”

Discuss the following questions in a group:

Why do you think it is unusual that Ahlaam received a full scholarship? What do you know about scholarships? How do people earn scholarship? What kinds of scholarships do you know about? Why do you think it might be hard for East African students to navigate the application and financial aid process?

Building Language Skills:

After reading the article, complete the activity below:

Visit the following website to browse different types of scholarships that are available: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search#!welcome> (if you are not currently in high school, you might want to try selecting different years in the “Educational Status” section to see what is available). Choose three or four of your results to answer the following questions: Which scholarship is worth the most? What makes you eligible for each scholarship? What can each scholarship be used for? Where can the scholarships be used? How can you apply for the scholarships? Write a short reflection about if you would apply for these scholarships, why or why not?

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. Somalia
2. She is double majoring in business and education
3. The first in their families to go to college
4. For education
5. “I woke up at 3 a.m. and lay there staring up at the sky, thinking about how my life’s going to change,” she said. “I was scared for my safety — a lot of people felt that way. But Donald Trump affected so many minority groups that it gave us a connection, which makes us powerful.”
6. In Islamic schools
7. A submission party to help students fill out paperwork, edit college essays and learn of scholarship opportunities.