

# NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, February 12, 2017 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

**\*Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

**Article: Creating a safe space for California dreamers (MAIN, A3)**

**Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

A. apparition	1. a group of persons sharing a particular statistical or demographic characteristic
B. armature	2. a goal or objective that is strongly desired
C. aspiration	3. the appearance of something remarkable or unexpected
D. cohort	4. having or showing a moderate or humble estimate of one's merits, importance, etc.; free from vanity, egotism, boastfulness, or great pretensions.
E. evoke	5. a revolving structure in an electric motor or generator, wound with the coils that carry the current
F. modest	6. thinly scattered or distributed
G. sparse	7. to call or summon up (a memory, feeling, etc), esp from the past

## Comprehension:

1. Who developed DACA as secretary of Homeland Security under President Obama?
2. The University of California, Merced, rises apparition-like out of a landscape of cow pastures, cotton fields and grasslands. The campus is meant to evoke this rural setting, where Tenaya Hall is home to the Fiat Lux Scholars. What is this program about?
3. The Merced campus opened in 2005; with just 7,000 students. It's slated to expand by 2020 to how many students?
4. What is the percentage of Merced County residents that hold a bachelor's degree?
5. About \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the student body are the first in their families to attend college, and roughly \_\_\_\_\_ percent are undocumented immigrants.
6. The Fiat Lux program, established in 2010, is designed to reach these students, the ones who grew up sleeping on living-room floors so the bedrooms could be rented out, or who

- learned how to rub garlic on the bottoms of shoes to ward off snakes while crossing the desert. The idea is to provide a pedagogical and social armature to help them do what?
7. Golash-Boza recently completed a study of 35 undocumented Merced students and found that 22 of their families earned less than \$\_\_\_\_\_ a year, on par with the average for undocumented students across the University of California's 10 campuses. Financial pressure is considerable, she said, but because of Merced's first-generation majority, students feel less isolated. "These students understand not being able to afford lunch," she said. "There's no shame associated with being poor here."
  8. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA is the directive, established in 2012 by executive action to provide what services?
  9. How many DACA recipients are there?
  10. Donald Trump campaigned on the vow that he would send the undocumented home and terminate DACA, calling the executive action that created it what?
  11. Students feel particularly vulnerable when applying for DACA?
  12. Who developed DACA as secretary of Homeland Security under President Obama?

### **Discussion Questions or Extension Essay Questions:**

***One of them is Aurora Fabian. On the wall of her bunk bed in Room 351C there is a thumb-tacked quote she takes to heart: "Happy People Shine Brighter!" Like her peers who entered the country illegally, Fabian always tries to shine bright. Her path from Mexico to this campus was hard won. From fifth grade onward, she was out until almost midnight helping her single mother mop, sweep and clean the counters of a bakery before moving on to scrub the tile floors of a nearby Italian restaurant.***

***Through it all, she managed to play high school soccer, run cross-country, work summers and weekends on the Santa Cruz boardwalk. Determined to "change our family history," as she puts it, Fabian won two local scholarships and a coveted spot at the University of California.***

- Do you agree with the phrase, "Happy People Shine Brighter?" Why or why not?
- Do you think others can tell whether a person is happy or not? How?
- Are you a happy person? What makes you feel that way? If you aren't a happy person, how can you change your mindset?
- How do you shine brightly in your life?
- How does your attitude affect your life?

***Collectively, the freshmen in Tenaya Hall are the beacons of a better life. They are the sons and daughters of housekeepers, dishwashers, fast-food cooks, farm laborers, landscapers, garment workers who stitch labels onto clothing and contractors who build swimming pools for affluent homeowners along the coast.***

- How do you stand as a "beacon of a better life" in your own family? What does that mean to you?

***Living together as a cohort is meant to foster bonding, and to ease first-generation students into the larger community. It is also an approach strongly associated with student retention; Fiat Lux Scholars graduate at a higher rate than students with comparable grade-point averages. Those accepted into the program — there is a waiting list — attend numerous workshops aimed at what is called procedural knowledge, reviewing study skills and learning how to connect with professors and research opportunities. Several times a semester there are organized lunches with faculty members.***

- How would a cohort help new college students?
- It helps retain students in their program? Why?

***Along with hot plates and mini fridges, resilience and tenacity are staples of Tenaya Hall. In rooms grouped by sixes down long corridors, young people who spent their winter vacations cutting other people's grass and cleaning other people's floors try hard to study and party, and pretend everything is normal.***

- What is resilience and tenacity?
- Do you have these life skills? Can you share a time when you've had to use these traits?
- How do kids build resilience and tenacity in their lives?

***Gomez, whose mother is a hotel housekeeper, grew up in the cramped confines of farmworker housing. Some days, the family didn't have enough to eat. On her desk at Merced, she keeps a picture of her high-school graduation. She wears a cap and gown with a gold sash (for highest honors), a black sash (for student body president), a blue sash (for secretary of the community service organization) and a gold medal (for achievement in Advanced Placement calculus). "It shows me that if I made my parents proud that day, then I can continue when I graduate," she said. She goes back to that photograph every single day.***

- Why do you think her graduation picture is so important to Gomez?
- Do you have a visual or phrase that you look at each day to give you strength? What is it and why does it help you?
- Is it important to you to make your parents proud? Why or why not?

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