

## NEWS BREAK

**Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, March 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: More men shift into low-skilled women's jobs (Business, D4)**

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

A. class	1. Either the male or female division of a species, especially as differentiated by social and cultural roles and behavior
B. disadvantaged	2. The condition of being unequal; lack of equality; disparity
C. gender	3. Having power, authority, or influence over others
D. inequality	4. A social group sharing basic economic, political, or cultural characteristics, and having the same social position
E. predominant	5. A group of persons related by common descent or heredity
F. race	6. Lacking the normal or usual necessities and comforts of life, as proper housing, educational opportunities, job security, adequate medical care, etc.
G. status	7. The position of an individual in relation to another or others, especially in regard to social or professional standing

## Comprehension

1. Even as women moved into men's jobs in fields like medicine, law and business, men historically did not flock to what specific jobs?
2. Over the past 15 years, according to a new study, men have been as likely to move into predominantly female jobs as the other way around — but not all men. What groups of men and why?

3. While work done by women continues to be valued less, the study demonstrates, job opportunities divide not just along gender lines but also what two things?
4. At the same time, the women who have continued to make inroads into more prestigious male-dominated professions in that period are likely to be in what categories?
5. The gender composition of jobs matters for reasons of equality — fields with a majority of men pay \_\_\_\_\_ percent more than those with mostly women.
6. The fastest growing jobs are dominated by \_\_\_\_\_, while the fastest shrinking ones are predominantly \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What jobs have become more female-based?
8. What 3 factors have always contributed to who does what work?
9. Health care showed some of the most striking changes. What did the study find?
10. Other research has found that men resist so-called “pink-collar” work, and the men who end up in the lowest-status of those jobs, like nurses’ aides, are already disadvantaged in the labor market because of what?

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

- **Why is work done by women still less-valued in 2017?**
- **Does this frustrate you?**
- **Do you think the gap is narrowing?**
- **Will the workplace ever be an equal playing field?**
- **Do you think it is equal in some companies or industries? Which ones?**
- **Why has race, ethnicity and gender always been a factor in who does what work? Do you think this will ever change? Why or why not?**

**Women have typically entered occupations when men find better ones, and immigrants have filled the ones women left behind. In the 1800s, according to previous research by Roos and Barbara Reskin of the University of Washington, Irish men replaced native-born white women in textile mills. The women moved to middleclass jobs like teaching — which native-born white men were leaving.**

- **Why has this been a historical cycle of employment?**

**The current patterns reflect widening inequality as a whole, said Leslie McCall, associate director of the Stone Center on Socioeconomic Inequality at CUNY, who was not involved in the new research but said it was consistent with past findings. She said it shows that policymakers who want to improve jobs should focus not on gender or race, but on general working conditions at the bottom of the income ladder.**

- What are the working conditions at the “bottom of the ladder?”
- Do you think making changes at the bottom will improve policies for all workers? Why or why not?

**“People are focusing too much on the white, male working class,” she said, “but if you look at the working class more broadly, the issues are quite similar across all groups: wages, economic security, employment support, training.”**

- What can be done to achieve equality across the board, in terms of employment?

**Other research has found that men resist so-called “pink-collar” work, and the men who end up in the lowest-status of those jobs, like nurses’ aides, are already disadvantaged in the labor market because of race and class.**

- Have you ever heard the term “pink collar” work before?
- Why is race and class such a factor in the labor market?

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## **Newsbreak Answer Key: March 12, 2017**

### **Vocabulary**

- A. 4**
- B. 6**
- C. 1**
- D. 2**
- E. 3**
- F. 5**
- G. 7**

### **Comprehension Answers**

1. The lower-status jobs that women mostly held.
2. It's those who are already disadvantaged in the labor market: black, Hispanic, less educated, poor and immigrant men.
3. Race and class
4. White, educated, native-born and married, according to the research.
5. 21%
6. Women, Male
7. Professional or managerial-based jobs
8. Race, ethnicity and gender
9. Every health-care job except one is more female than in 2000.
10. Race and class

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

Answers will vary