

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Law student finds bike helmets for hundreds of Seattle children**

Section: **NW, C1**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, April 21, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will learn how to solve a problem, through action. They will examine the King County Board of Health's 2022 decision to repeal the county's bicycle helmet law and how that impacted our community. They will discuss whether they feel that wearing helmets during cycling is important, or not. They will also learn about the importance of building community partnerships when trying to fund a new program.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using these pictures?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Named to the school’s law review last year and with an assignment to find a topic of legal interest and write an article, Peters landed on an examination of the King County Board of Health’s 2022 decision to **repeal** the county’s bicycle helmet law after being presented with evidence of discriminatory enforcement against people of color and those who are homeless.”

Repeal Guess:

Repeal Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why did Schuyler Peters decide to take action after writing her law review article?
2. What was the problem in King County related to bicycle helmets that Schuyler identified?
3. Why was King County's bicycle helmet law repealed?
4. According to the article, what were some of the arguments for and against the helmet law?
5. What did Schuyler do to find a solution to the lack of bicycle helmets for children?
6. How did Schuyler partner with Seattle Children's and Panda Express to get helmets for kids?
7. Which schools in Shoreline benefited from the helmet program?
8. How many helmets were distributed?
9. Trained volunteers sat with each child and gave the helmet a proper _____ at giveaways in the school auditoriums last month.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?
- Do you think wearing a helmet is important for cyclists? Why or why not?
- Have you ever found a problem and decided to address it yourself?

Diving Deeper-Journal & Discussion Prompts:

The article mentions funding challenges. Can you think of any ways to ensure children have access to bicycle helmets in the future?

Research bicycle helmet laws in your area. Are there any concerns about fairness or access?

Schuyler Peters' initiative led to a successful collaboration with Seattle Children's and Panda Express. Why are community partnerships in addressing local issues important?

Do you think the repeal of the King County helmet law was the right decision? What are the arguments for and against the repeal? Are there ways to address concerns about enforcement without eliminating the law entirely?

How can we ensure children have access to bicycle helmets? Have you thought about this issue before reading this article?

Should cyclists of all ages be required to wear helmets? What are the pros and cons of mandatory helmet laws. Consider factors like safety statistics, personal liberty, and potential impact on cycling participation.

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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