



**Reading and Writing WASL Prep Using the Newspaper
April 5, 2009**

Reading:

Multiple-Choice: Read the article, "STATE'S COLLEGE RETRAINING PROGRAMS GO BROKE" (A1), and respond to the following multiple choice question:

What does Shawn Oglesby mean when she says, "this is the American drought?"

- A. She means that the American dream is a myth.
- B. She means that global warming has made it so there is less rain in the United States and we are in danger of a drought.
- C. She means that people should not move to the United States to find jobs.
- D. She means that there are currently limited job opportunities in America, especially for those who cannot receive job retraining.

To access this article online, visit:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2008986977_retraining05m.html

Short Answer:

Choose any article from the newspaper and respond to the following short answer questions:

1. What is the main idea/theme of the article? Support your answer with **one** example from the text.



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2. In your own words, write a summary of the article. Include **three** important ideas/events from the text in your summary.

Writing:

Read the article, “Bunch of short-term gigs one way to make ends meet,” (G1) and respond to the following writing prompt:

Write a letter to a friend who is considering finding short-term work *explaining* some of the benefits and some of the drawbacks of this type of work to him or her.

To access this article online, visit:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2008986037_patchwork05.html

Use the back of the page or a separate piece of paper to complete this writing task.



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ANSWER KEY

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

D. She means that there are currently limited job opportunities in America, especially for those who cannot receive job retraining.

Tips for Scoring the Expository Essay

<http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculum/instruct/writing/annotations/10gradAnnotations.aspx>

- Does the author remain focused on the main idea?
- Are there well-chosen supporting details (description, examples, anecdotes)?
- Does the author list reasons, and/or facts to support their writing?
- Is there a logical, understandable organizational pattern?
- Does the author make use of transitions to connect ideas?
- Is there a commitment to the topic (voice)?
- Does the essay include an introduction and conclusion?