

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Obama Urges School Districts to Pay Teachers More and Open Charter Schools,
07/29/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/july-dec09/education_07-29.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the Obama administration offering to schools?

2. What are the conditions to get the money?

3. Why are some of these reforms controversial?

4. Where does the Race to the Top money come from?

5. What will happen to school districts that don't make the changes?

6. What do some Republican critics say about the plan?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think it is a good idea to push changes in schools by using money as leverage? Why or why not?

2. What do you think about these proposed changes? Do you think your teacher would be better at their job if they got paid more when you did well?

3. Why are some teachers against Obama's plan?

4. What would you want your school to do with the money if they got it?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.