

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

AM MID PM

Article of the Week for the Week of September 25

Due Friday, September 29

\_\_\_\_\_/20 points

1. Diffuse the text. (4 points)
  - a. Underline any unfamiliar words
  - b. Use context clues to help find the meaning
  - c. Think of two possible substitutions (synonyms) for at least two unfamiliar words
  - d. Confirm your definition by checking a dictionary or thesaurus
2. Read again. Write 3+ thoughts in the margin to show your thinking while you read. (6 points)
3. Read a third time. Write a 5 - 7 sentence paragraph **summary** of the article. (10 points)

**What is DACA and who are the Dreamers?**

by Joanna Waters, *The Guardian*, adapted by Newsela, 9/17/2017

The Trump administration announced September 5 that it planned to end DACA. The program had given temporary protection to immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the U.S. would end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in March 2018. The U.S. attorney general is the top law enforcement officer in the U.S. The decision to end DACA threw almost 800,000 people into confusion and fear.

After this announcement, Congress was given up to six months to find another law to address these immigrants, also known as Dreamers.

There has been a pushback from Democrats. Some Democratic leaders said they had agreed on a new deal with Donald Trump to protect Dreamers. Trump recently told reporters, "We're working on a plan for DACA."

So what is DACA, who are the people affected, and what will happen to them?

**What is DACA?**

DACA is a federal government program created in 2012 under Barack Obama. It allows people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children the temporary right to live, study and work in America.

These Dreamers must apply for this right. They are checked for any criminal history or threat to national security, and they must be students or have completed school or military service. If they pass this checkup, they can avoid being deported, or sent home, for two years, and will be able to apply again. They can try to obtain a driving license, college enrollment or a work permit.

**Who are the Dreamers?**

By the time Trump announced his decision to stop the program, 787,580 Dreamers had been granted approval. To apply, they must have been younger than 31 on June 15, 2012, when the program began. They also must be "undocumented," meaning they are not legally on record as official immigrants.

To be a Dreamer, one must have arrived in the U.S. before turning 16 and lived here continuously since June 2007.

Most Dreamers are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and the largest numbers live in California, Texas, Florida and New York. They range in age from 15 to 36, according to the White House.

In 2001, both Democrats and Republicans came together to create the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. It would have offered those who had arrived illegally as children the chance of permanent legal residency. However, the law failed to pass. So, Obama's administration created the DACA program as a temporary measure to protect the Dreamers.

### **What did Trump announce?**

During last year's divisive election, Trump promised to end DACA immediately. He said he would work to deport the estimated 11 million people who are in the U.S. illegally.

Trump also threatened to ban all Muslims from entering the U.S. and to build a wall along the border with Mexico. He has not yet successfully carried out any of these threats.

The administration announced September 5 that it would begin ending DACA. Trump gave Congress six months to come up with a law for Dreamers.

Obama used his power as the president, also known as an executive order, to make the DACA program. Executive orders do not require approval from the Senate or Congress.

Since he became president, Trump had the power simply to reverse Obama's order.

### **What will happen to the Dreamers?**

Under the Trump administration, DACA applications will no longer be accepted.

For those currently in the program, their legal status and permits to work and attend college will end as early as March 2018. All Dreamers will lose their legal standing by March 2020. However, Congress may pass laws allowing a new way for them to become legal immigrants.

As their legal standing expires, they could be deported and sent back to the countries where they were born, which they may have no familiarity with. It is still unclear whether this will happen.