

Foreign Competition and North Carolina's Furniture Industry

Seminar Rules

1. Read the text.
2. Listen to each other.
3. Ask questions.
4. Share your opinion.
5. Be polite.

Seminar Questions

Opening Questions

1. The selection is simply entitled "Furniture" with the subheadings of "Overview" and Public Policy." If you were given the opportunity to name this selection, what would you call it?
2. What was your initial reaction to the reading?

Core Questions

3. What is meant by "Firms in the industry are being forced to rethink their corporate strategies in order to remain successful?" (Overview, Introduction paragraph-3rd sentence)
4. "Thus, the average wage for people working in furniture is 30.3 percent below the state average manufacturing wage." (Overview, Employment & Wages- 2nd paragraph, last sentence) Can we draw any conclusions or make any assumptions from this statement?
5. Why are businesses outsourcing to China so much?
6. Is it the place of the federal government to create policies that would protect the furniture industry?
7. How are the state and federal governments helping the displaced furniture workers?

Closing Questions

8. What advice would you have to the displaced workers?
9. Is China to blame for the state of North Carolina's furniture industry?
10. What questions do you have?