



Article: [Spokane's Re-Criminalizing Homelessness Has Quick Impact on the Street](#)

### **Classroom Discussion Questions College Level**

**Structural and Systemic Causes:** The article highlights factors such as housing costs, unemployment, and mental health in contributing to homelessness. To what extent is homelessness a symptom of broader systemic inequality, and how should policy approaches shift to address these root causes rather than temporary symptoms?

**Public Perception and Policy:** Public attitudes toward homelessness often influence the kinds of policies cities adopt—ranging from compassionate outreach to punitive restrictions. How do social narratives and media framing shape these responses, and what ethical considerations arise from criminalizing or displacing unhoused populations?

**Pathways to Sustainable Solutions:** Short-term shelters provide immediate relief, but long-term solutions require structural change. What combination of housing policy, healthcare access, and economic reform might most effectively reduce homelessness, and what trade-offs or political barriers stand in the way of implementing them?

### **Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12**

**Complex Causes:** The article explores the many reasons people become homeless—such as rising housing costs, mental health challenges, and job loss. Which of these causes do you think is the hardest for communities to address, and why?

**Community Responsibility:** The story highlights the tension between compassion and frustration in public responses to homelessness. What responsibilities do local governments and community members have to help people without homes, and what approaches seem most effective?

**Long-Term Solutions:** Temporary shelters can provide short-term relief, but they don't always solve the larger problem. What long-term solutions could help reduce homelessness, and how can education, employment, or health care play a role in that change?

## **Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8**

**Why It Happens:** The article talks about different reasons people become homeless, like losing a job or not being able to afford rent. Which reason do you think is the hardest to fix, and why?

**Helping as a Community:** Some people want to help those without homes, while others feel unsure about how to help. What do you think communities should do to support people who don't have a safe place to live?

**Finding Real Solutions:** Shelters can give people a place to stay for a while, but they don't always solve the problem. What could towns and cities do to help people find homes and stay in them for the long term?

## **Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5**

**Why Homes Matter:** Some people don't have a home to live in. Why is having a safe place to live important for everyone?

**Helping Others:** What are some kind and helpful things we can do for people who don't have homes?

**Working Together:** How can our community work together to make sure everyone has a warm and safe place to stay?