

### **Close Read (Annotate the Text) Steps!**

- ✓ **Stop** after every paragraph and **ask yourself** “**what is the writer trying to tell me?**” Write your understanding on the right margin.
- ✓ **Write comments** that show **you understand** the article (main idea, summary statement, etc.)
- ✓ **Write Questions** that show **what you are wondering** about as you read.
- ✓ **Write notes** that shows **you understand** when the author is stating **facts or opinions**
- ✓ **Write any other observations, connections, comments, and thoughts** you may have.

## **U.S. government tells refugees fewer of them will be allowed in**

By Associated Press, 09/23/2018

Text Level 850

Word Count 709

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States will again lower the number of refugees it will accept, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said. The secretary of state is in charge of the United States' relationships with other countries.

A refugee is a person who has fled their home country because it is not safe for them. Many refugees flee war, conflict and being targeted for their race, religion or nationality.

This is the second year in a row the United States has lowered the refugee ceiling. Human rights groups spoke out against the decision. Pompeo insisted that the country will still provide safety for people fleeing the world's danger zones.

Up to 30,000 refugees will be allowed into the country next year. The cap was 45,000 this year. It will be the lowest ceiling on admissions since the program began in 1980. The announcement was made on September 17. Humanitarian groups around the world already believed that this year's cap of 45,000 was too low.

Democratic lawmakers were not happy with the decision.

### **Many People Oppose The New Numbers**

Senator Dianne Feinstein is a lawmaker from California. Senator Dick Durbin is a lawmaker from Illinois. Together, they released a statement. President Donald Trump's government is abandoning America's long history of helping people in need, the statement said.

The CATO Institute is a group in Washington, D.C. It studies different government issues and then makes recommendations on those issues. It spoke out about lowering the cap. David Bier works for the CATO Institute. He said that Trump is shrinking the refugee program at the wrong time. The number of people who need to flee violence has reached the highest level in many years, he said.

Bier said there is no way to defend the new ceiling. He pointed to a Trump government paper that found that refugees help the United States make money. The chances of a refugee harming someone is rare, the report said.

### **How Many Will Really Be Allowed Entry?**

Pompeo addressed some of the complaints about lowering the ceiling. He noted that the United States would look at more than 280,000 asylum claims.

Some people are afraid in their own countries. They worry their governments will harm them. This might happen because what they believe is different. So they ask another country to let them live there. This is called asylum.

The 30,000 cap is the maximum number of refugees the United States will admit for the next year, starting October 1. The real number allowed in could be lower. So far this year, only 20,918 refugees have been admitted, government records show.

President Barack Obama raised the number of refugees allowed into the country to 110,000 in 2017. The number dropped after Trump took office, though. Obama's last full year as president was 2016 and that year, the United States welcomed nearly 85,000 refugees.

### **Human Rights Group Has Its Say**

The United States still offers many other forms of protection to people from other countries, Pompeo said. The United States gives money to help people in other countries, he said.

Amnesty International is a human rights group. The group said the Trump government is "abandoning" refugees with the lower cap.

Pompeo said the United States should try to end conflicts that force people out of their home countries in the first place.

Trump has made limiting immigrants a big part of his government plan. Last year Trump made a rule to stop people from several Muslim-majority countries from entering the country. He has also claimed he will build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

### **Using Crime As An Excuse**

Trump has linked immigrants to crime in the United States. Yet resettlement groups in the United States say otherwise. The U.S. has one of the world's toughest programs for people coming in. Three million refugees have been admitted since 1975. Not one of them has been arrested for carrying an attack on U.S. soil, resettlement agencies say.

Most applicants to the U.S. refugee program spend at least three years being interviewed. They have to go through medical exams. They fill out lots of paperwork. Cases are screened by many government groups, including the FBI.

After they are resettled, refugees continue to undergo security checks for five or more years.

### **Text Dependent Questions**

1. Read the paragraph from the section "Using Crime As An Excuse."

*Most applicants to the U.S. refugee program spend at least three years being interviewed. They have to go through medical exams. They fill out lots of paperwork. Cases are screened by many government groups, including the FBI.*

Which of the following is an accurate explanation of what this paragraph means?

