A Temporary Shield

Read how DACA's purpose compares with its results

USH.C.9.2.D "Explain the intent and outcome of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence that states DACA's intent, circle two possible outcomes for recipients, and number two limits that keep its protection temporary.

What DACA Was Meant to Do

1 In 2012, the Obama administration announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. It addressed a problem faced by some people brought to the United States as children without legal immigration status. Many had grown up in U.S. communities, yet could be removed to countries they barely knew. DACA's intent was to give certain eligible people a temporary pause from deportation, allowing them to plan school, work, and daily life with less fear. It was an executive branch policy, not a law passed by Congress. Applicants had to meet requirements involving arrival age, residence, education or military service, and criminal history.

2 Consider a student who had lived in the United States since childhood and met DACA's rules. After applying and passing a background check, that student could receive deferred action for two years, subject to renewal. A recipient could also apply for permission to work. These outcomes could make it easier to earn wages legally, help support family members, or pursue education. But deferred action is a decision to delay removal, not a grant of lawful immigration status. DACA did not erase past immigration violations, guarantee future renewals, or create a direct path to citizenship.

3 DACA affected more than an application form. For some recipients, work authorization opened jobs that required proof of permission to work. It also allowed employers to hire them under federal rules. At the same time, the program remained temporary and faced legal and political challenges. A change in policy or a court ruling could affect who could apply and whether protections continued. This tension is central to evaluating DACA: the program aimed to shield eligible people from immediate removal and widen their opportunities, but it could not provide the lasting security that a change in immigration law might provide.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did DACA focus on certain people brought to the United States as children, and what protection was it meant to provide?

2. How could DACA's intended protection lead to changes in a recipient's work or family life?

3. Why did receiving DACA not settle a recipient's immigration future?

4. How could DACA's status as an executive branch policy affect its outcomes over time?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A school newspaper claims, “Once someone received DACA, their immigration future was settled.” Write a 70 to 90 word response that explains why this claim is misleading. Connect DACA's intent to two possible effects on everyday life and one reason its protection could change.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.9.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence that states DACA's intent, circle two possible outcomes for recipients, and number two limits that keep its protection temporary. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did DACA focus on certain people brought to the United States as children, and what protection was it meant to provide?	**Some had grown up in U.S. communities but faced removal to countries they barely knew. DACA was meant to give eligible people a temporary pause from deportation.**
2	How could DACA's intended protection lead to changes in a recipient's work or family life?	**A recipient could apply for work permission, which could make it easier to earn wages legally and help support family members.**
3	Why did receiving DACA not settle a recipient's immigration future?	**Deferred action delayed removal but did not grant lawful immigration status or a direct path to citizenship, and renewal was not guaranteed.**
4	How could DACA's status as an executive branch policy affect its outcomes over time?	**Because DACA was a policy rather than a law passed by Congress, policy changes or court rulings could affect applications and continued protection.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The school newspaper claim confuses temporary protection with a permanent solution. DACA was meant to delay deportation for eligible people brought to the United States as children. A recipient might get permission to work and help pay family bills, while the pause from removal could make school plans less uncertain. But receiving DACA does not give someone lawful immigration status or citizenship. Because the policy can change and renewals are not guaranteed, a recipient still has to plan for an uncertain future.

Accept other passage-supported effects, such as pursuing education or qualifying for jobs that require work authorization. Responses should distinguish temporary deferred action from lawful immigration status or citizenship.