

Read this article here:

*The gig economy is a way of working where people take on short-term jobs or tasks, often through online platforms or apps, instead of having a regular, full-time job with one employer. Examples include driving for ride-share companies, delivering food, or doing freelance work like graphic design. Gig workers usually get paid for each job or task they complete, and they often set their own schedules.*

*Gig workers, especially delivery drivers, can be more vulnerable to unsafe conditions than traditional employees. For example, delivery drivers may have to work in bad weather, rush to meet tight deadlines, or travel through unfamiliar neighborhoods. Unlike regular employees, gig workers often do not get safety training, health benefits, or paid sick leave. If they get hurt or sick, they might not have support from their company. The article mentions that gig workers sometimes have to work long hours without breaks, which can lead to exhaustion or accidents.*

*In our local community, some jobs that are part of the gig economy include food delivery drivers, ride-share drivers, dog walkers, and people who do odd jobs through apps like TaskRabbit. Freelance photographers or tutors who find work online are also part of the gig economy.*

*To help protect gig workers from illness or injury, two changes could be made. First, companies could provide safety gear, like reflective vests or helmets, to delivery drivers. Second, there could be policies that require regular breaks and limit the number of hours someone can work in a day. Community support, like safe places to rest or access to health care, would also help.*

*Many gig workers come from marginalized groups, such as immigrants, young people, or those with caregiving responsibilities. These groups might turn to gig work because it offers flexible hours or is easier to get than traditional jobs. However, they may face challenges like lower pay, lack of job security, and fewer protections. This can make it harder for them to support themselves and stay safe while working.*

[Sentence Frames](#)

**2. Question:** In your own words, explain what the gig economy is.

**4. Question:** Why might gig workers—especially delivery drivers—be more vulnerable to unsafe conditions than traditional employees? Use examples from the article and your own thoughts.

**5. Question:** What are some jobs in our local community that might be part of the gig economy?

**7. Question:** What are two changes that could help protect gig workers from illness or injury? Think about gear, breaks, policies, or community support.

**9. Question.** Many people who take gig jobs come from marginalized groups, such as immigrants, young workers, or people balancing caregiving responsibilities. Why might these groups be more likely to turn to gig work, and what challenges could they face compared to traditional employees?