Employment Scams – Task 14

A. Before reading the article, build your vocabulary knowledge. Match the words with their meanings.

Match the letter in column 2 to Column 1		
Letter	Word – Column 1	Definition – Column 2
	1. Legitimate	a) something used to attract someone
	2. substantial	b) one who does “third-party” contract work
	3. contractor	c) to persuade someone to do something
	4. certification	d) another company, separate from the main company
	5. the fine print	e) to check someone’s background to be certain they are
	6. bait	f) trustworthy and capable of doing the job
	7. sub-contractor	g) one who works independently, not a regular employee
	8. separate entity	h) large (esp. about amount)
	9. work	i) an official document saying one is qualified to do the
	10. to rope someone into something	j) true, honest
	11. to screen someone	k) the most important information in a contract

Adapted from English for Financial Literacy, Volume 3 - Employment Scams
https://settlementatwork.org/resources/english-financial-literacy-volumes-1-3

B. Read the text that follows. Match the headings below with appropriate sections of the text. (Copy and paste the correct heading in the space provided.)

1. *Bogus Business Opportunities*
2. *"We Have a Job for You"*
3. *"Make Big Profits Working at Home"*
4. *"Job Training — Job Guaranteed"*
5. *Phony Employment Agency*

Employment Scams

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a. Look out for ads promoting job training that claim to guarantee employment and high startingsalaries with the same company that offers the training. Often this 'training' does not lead to employment and legitimate employers may not recognize the certification.

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b. Fake employment agencies contact people who may have posted their résumés online or with a job-search engine. Job hunters are invited to interviews and promised employment with substantialannual salaries. They are then pressured to sign a contract and asked to pay an administration fee for the job placement service. The victims might never hear from the company again, or they will be given a list of referral companies that have never heard of the phoney agency and have no workto offer. Complaints will be dismissed with a referral to 'the fine print' in their contract, which saysemployment is not guaranteed.

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c. Companies that advertise specialized business opportunities, such as office cleaning, will promise clients contracts in exchange for an 'investment' fee of several thousand dollars. The paperwork suggests that the individual is a 'partner' or 'sub-contractor' and they may even be encouraged to register their own business as a separate entity from the company. The company guarantees a certain number of clients within a specific time frame or the investment fee will be refunded. The companyultimately fails to refer the promised number of clients

and never delivers the refund.

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d. Big profits are highly unlikely. Ads like these are designed to rope people into low-paying work likestuffing envelopes or turning out cheap handicraft products. Or they may ask you to pay in advancefor working materials. When they arrive, you find you paid much more than the materials are worth.

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e. Beware of calls from so-called employment agencies telling you they have been asked by an employer to "screen" you for a particular job. After getting you to pay a hefty administration fee, they send you to see someone who has no work to offer and has never heard of the agency. They then point to fine print in their contract, which says jobs aren't guaranteed after all. In other cases, the offer of a non-existent job is used as bait to get you into their office. Once there, you are pressured to sign up for job-finding services. Payment is in advance, of course.

Source: Popular Employment Schemes. Ontario Ministry of Consumer Services. Copyright Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2008. Retrieved from http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/Pages/Scams_Employment_Schemes.aspx.

C. Summary Assignment – Email

1. Select one of the scams and write an email to a job seeker warning him/her about it.
2. Give details of the following:
    a) how the scheme lures the potential victim
    b) what the scheme promises
    c) how it really works
    d) what can you do to avoid being scammed?
3. Submit your assignment to the instructor.