
e-lesson

Week starting: June 22 2009

1. What makes a good school?

This week's lesson features students' opinions about what constitutes a good school.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above).

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm the idea of a good school – ask your students to list (and perhaps prioritize) the things an ideal school should have, and also the things it shouldn't have. You could broaden the activity to take in the educational system as a whole.
2. Give your students five to ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. You could ask them to check if any of their ideas are mentioned. Tell them they are going to answer a series of questions on the text, but that they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and hand out Worksheet B. Ask them to work together to complete the different types of comprehension questions in Exercises 1, 2, and 3.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students if they particularly agreed or disagreed with any of the opinions expressed on Worksheet A, and if so, why.
6. Hand out Worksheet C and ask the students to work together to complete the crossword.
7. Check answers in open class.

Answers:**Exercise 1**

1. Hannah, Ryan 2. Paul, Amy, Ryan 3. Hannah, Ryan 4. Paul

Exercise 2

1. F 2. T 3. T 4. F 5. D 6. T 7. T 8. D

Exercise 3

1. Bullying.
2. Worrying about passing tests.
3. Reading (or learning to read), basic math, and subjects that the students themselves are interested in.
4. Encouraging students to be creative and to think for themselves.
5. What she wants to major in in college.

Exercise 4

1. mess 2. facilities 3. subjects 4. healthy 5. exclude 6. major
7. languages 8. system 9. discipline 10. strict 11. pressure

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *mathematics* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://milwaukee.studentsspeakout.org/group/QualityLearningAndTeaching/forum/to/pics/what-are-qualities-of-a-good>

Students express their opinions of what makes a good teacher. Accessible to intermediate level.

<http://ezinearticles.com/?10-Qualities-You-Find-in-Good-Students-and-Good-Citizens&id=596066>

From the reverse perspective, here a retired schoolteacher says what qualities she thinks makes a good student. Accessible to intermediate level.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2006-03-07-forum-students_x.htm

A *USA Today* editorial about the reasons for the difference between native US students and foreign students on test scores. Challenging for intermediate level.