

WEEK 31

Dear NEA Members,

Here's a little something different this week...

Share Your Teaching Stories!

The NEA Research Department needs your help with an ambitious project to produce an important new book on the past, present and future of the teaching profession in America!

We are asking active and retired K-12 public school teachers to describe their most memorable experiences as teachers, both inside and outside the classroom, in short vignettes of no more than 1,000 words. We want to capture the range of teacher voices across the country, helping the public understand both the successes and challenges teachers face daily as part of their jobs.

The original deadline for submissions was April 9th, we want to encourage all interested teachers to submit their stories even if the deadline has passed.

For further information on how to submit a vignette, please visit the link below.

<http://www.nea.org/home/38073.htm>

Thank you for your assistance!

NEA Research Department

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help [members](#). NEA has created a web-site called "Works-4-Me" which are tried and true teaching hints suggested by NEA members. Each week you will receive an e-mail with six helpful (and short) hints to help you in your [professional life](#). They will fall under the following categories:

- Teaching Techniques
- Content
- Getting Organized
- Managing Your Classroom
- Relationships
- Using Technology

In addition, you will get information about your NEA Member Benefits that are available to you through your membership in the Association. Click on the link or visit www.neamb.com.

Teaching Techniques

It Can Be

"When I have some time at the end of the day, I play **IT CAN BE** with my class. This is a math game where the child holds up an addition sum and the class has to give the problem. For example, if the card says 17, someone called on might say, "9 + 8." If the flashcard says 8 + 9, the child holding the card would say, "**IT COULD BE BUT IT'S NOT.**" If the child says, "8 + 9", the child holding the card would say, '**IT COULD BE AND IT IS.**' The children have to give the problem exactly as it's written on the card. If a child gives a completely incorrect answer such as 9 + 6, the response is, "**IT COULDN'T BE.**" The child that answers correctly gets to be the next one to hold up the flashcard. This is a great activity for enhancing math thinking skills."

Content

Volcanic Plate Movement

"When I discuss plate movement in my volcano unit, I do a hands-on activity that gives the students visuals and a tasty treat. I give each child a piece of wax paper with a tablespoon of frosting on it and a graham cracker. The students break their graham crackers into segments. They put two segments on the frosting and move them like the plates of a volcano

move. After the discussion, let the kids eat their plates. The students love this lesson and it adds variety and visuals to a sometimes complicated lesson."

Getting Organized

Hanging Student Work

"I have painted cinder block walls in my classroom and I found that charts stay on the wall better with hot glue than with stick tack. To display student work, I hot glued clothespins to the wall in alternating rows. I glued my students' names above the clothespins. Changing displays of student work has never been easier and the pins lift right off the wall when I'm ready to remove them."

Managing Your Classroom

Teacher Empathy

"A good way to instill empathy for the teacher is to have the rowdy or bored student teach a lesson for 20-30 minutes. The student becomes the teacher and I become the student that sits in his/her seat. The results are amazing! The student learns to understand the frustrations and rewards of teaching a lesson. Sometimes I pick the lessons and give the students materials. Other times, I let them teach something that is of interest to them. Try it, it works!"

Relationships

Cozy Old and New Teachers

"I am often in school before we're required to be so I meet the new people as they move in and offer to assist them with their move. I make a point of seeing them daily to inquire about their day or answer any questions. I also sit with the new teachers at lunch and during meetings. Last year, we had a teacher who was new to the area so we went out to dinner and did social things together to get her accustomed to the town."

Using Technology

Reading and Writing Site

"I just found this website, <http://www.nwrel.org/eval/index.html>, and it's spectacular! This web site has prompts, rubrics for writing, reading and oral communication, as well as a load of research about teaching these areas. It's an excellent resource."

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

“Money Talk” Blog

A new financial blog especially for NEA members

Date published: Thursday, February 25, 2010

NEA Member Benefits has joined with our online community partner TeachAde.com to offer a financial blog with you in mind.

The weekly “[Money Talk](#)” blog is written by Elizabeth Schrufer, a Certified Financial Planner™ at NEA Member Benefits.

With a new posting every Wednesday, we encourage you to follow the blog to read Elizabeth’s practical tips and simple explanations about a variety of financial topics. Her posts address many of the same topics a member might discuss with a financial planner, but in a style that’s approachable and easy to understand.

What members are saying about “[Money Talk](#)”:

“Elizabeth gives you the lowdown in layman’s terms.”

“I don’t like dealing with financial issues but this blog makes it a bit more manageable.

Through one of the links, I was able to check out the background of my financial advisor... for free and no signup.”

“This is like a Finance 101 course for me. I need more of this.”

See the most recent posts below, or visit the [“Money Talk”](#) blog to see all of Elizabeth’s posts:

- [April is National Financial Literacy Month!](#)
What’s your biggest money hurdle? Do you get bogged down by financial acronyms? Are you confused by all the fine print on your statements? What about just expanding your financial knowledge, in general? Well, in case you haven’t heard, April officially starts National Financial Literacy ...
- [Are You Playing Catch-up with Your Retirement Savings?](#)
For those readers age 50 and over, you have a great savings tool available to you — the catch-up contribution provision for supplemental retirement savings plans. Simply stated, the catch-up provision allows individuals age 50 and above (or turning age 50 in the calendar year) to contribute, o...
- [Answering More Money Talk Questions](#)
Last week, I received two great questions from Money Talk readers. The first asked if NEA member union dues are tax deductible, and if so, how much. Referring to IRS Tax Form Schedule A, union dues may be deductible for tax purposes as part of your miscellaneous itemized deductions (see line 21: Unr...
- [Good News! Tax Credit for Younger or Lower Income Savers](#)
Previously, we chatted about the power of tax deductions and credits. Today, I have another tax credit to share with you: the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, or what is also referred to as the Low Income Savers Credit. Don’t let the boring name fool you, this one packs a sweet little ...

See all the [NEA Member Benefits Community](#) pages.