

WEEK 4

Dear NEA Members,

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help teachers and ESP 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 teaching. They will fall under the following categories:

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

Teaching Techniques

Take It Apart Party

"I run an after school club for my students. I want to use this valuable time on academics, but also know it's important for students to get to know one another. So, once a month to have an after school gathering; this month we had a 'Take It Apart Party.' We collected broken small appliances and on the appointed day, we took them apart. We found the insides of various hair dryers are similar, toasters have springs all over the place, and gears are a wonder in old telephones and mixers. We had such a great time taking things apart that we got back together the next two days to nail our findings together into free form sculptures."

Content

Bedroom Maps

"In order to reinforce map skills, my students write a detailed description of their bedrooms including shapes, sizes, colors and directional relationships between objects in their rooms. After a few lessons on maps, keys and symbols the students create an aerial view map of their room. I display the bedroom maps on the bulletin board and include a zip lock bag with the children's descriptions in the middle. There are only numbers that

I can identify on the descriptions so the students don't know who wrote them. During free time, the children can take out a description and try to match it to a map on the board. If the work was done accurately, the challenge shouldn't be too difficult."

Getting Organized

Missing Papers I

"My students are always losing handouts (homework sheets, school notices, skill pages). I always run off three extra copies of each handout and place them in an in-basket. I use the top of a gift box in a convenient spot. If my students can't find a handout at the end of the day, they check the box and don't bother me. I clean out the box about every two weeks. This is a life-saver since the end of the day is hectic enough without having to locate a missing paper."

Managing Your Classroom

Silent Noise

"Particularly useful at the start of the school year or on days near special events when students are talking during introductory instructions, I tell them they can keep talking, just without sound. It usually catches their attention quickly. Then I explain that when so many are talking all at once in the room, it just takes my words away. Trying to figure out the directives is hard when only my lips are moving and it usually gets the class quiet so that I can continue with directives."

Relationships

Scavenger Hunt at Open House

"Each year at the beginning of the year, my teaching partner and I put together a small scavenger hunt for the fourth graders to do at open house with their parents. This activity makes the students real excited about coming to the open house and showing off everything. It allows parents to see all the things you want them to see and really cuts down on those parents who want to turn open house into conference night. The first item

on the list is for students to introduce their parents to the teacher and then we add about twelve other things like showing their science notebook, solving a problem, doing an estimation activity together, showing the science table, etc. If students complete the sheet, parents sign it and students return it the next morning, they receive a bonus point. It works for everyone!"

Using Technology

Weekly E-Mail Newsletter

"I e-mail newsletters to my students and their parents. At the beginning of the year, I collect the addresses of all those interested in receiving the newsletter. I send out a quick little newsletter about upcoming projects, tests, homework assignments and any other helpful information every week. Since I have everyone's address in a personal distribution list, all I have to do is hit the send button to communicate with the majority of my students and parents. The responses I have gotten are phenomenal. It has really opened up the communication lines. Parents are up to date with what's going on and feel comfortable asking questions via e-mail. They are very appreciative of the effort to get them involved at the high school level. My students are also able to send me e-mail with questions, suggestions and thank-you's."

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

“Because, it’s not for you—it’s for them.”

A message from Sue Fox, your NEA Insurance Program Liaison

Dear NEA Members,

No one really wants to think about life insurance, but it’s absolutely heartbreaking to see what can happen when there isn’t enough.

You may not know this, but a full 86% of NEA Members are underinsured and not aware of it. All too often, I hear about the financial hardship caused by inadequate coverage, and I honestly don’t want to see even one more member’s family go through this.

That’s why, during September, we are partnering with the Life Foundation to educate members about the importance of having adequate life insurance.

Please take full advantage of the resources available on our site this month:

- Calculate [how much life insurance you need](#)
- [Register your beneficiary](#) for NEA Complimentary Life Insurance
- Learn about [NEA life insurance plans](#)

Beginning September 1, you'll have a chance to:

- Test your insurance IQ and enter to win a \$1000 gift card
- See a video message from the 2010 LIAM national spokesperson, Leslie Bibb
- Watch member videos that highlight personal stories about the importance of life insurance
- Get the protection your family needs
- Have fun along the way!

Find out what you need to adequately protect those you love, and we'll do our best to help you get it.

I know how much your family means to you. Please e-mail me if you need help along the way.

Regards,

Sue Fox

sfox@neamb.com

Source: <http://www.neamb.com/home/4454.htm>