

WEEK 5

Dear NEA Members,

Greetings! There are many new ideas out there to help teachers. 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

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

Special Students

"I have a tip to help students see just how special everyone truly is on the inside and out. Have every student decorate the outside of a small brown paper sack with the things they love, hobbies, etc. Then, ask the students to place a clue inside the bag about something no one in the class would know by looking at them. After everyone is finished, the students go around the room and try to guess whose bags they are. After the students have tried to guess, everyone gets a chance to explain their bag to the class. Students are able to see what they have in common with their classmates. This is a good icebreaker for the beginning of the school year."

Content

Odds and Evens

"I teach even and odd and have less confusion with this technique. On even dates on the calendar the girls go first and on odd dates the boys go first."

Getting Organized

Missing Papers II

"Many times students at this level feel we, the teacher, have misplaced their work. One of the best ways I have found to make life easier for the student, teacher, and parent is to keep a legal pad with the assignment and date written down. If the student does not turn a paper in on that day he/she simply signs the pad indicating he/she did not have the assignment. This procedure keeps peace across the board and builds character for the student. The student is more aware of how many times he/she has not been prepared for class when he/she has to sign routinely."

Managing Your Classroom

Message Labels

"I discovered a wonderful use for the printed address labels that so many companies sell. Instead of ordering address labels, my orders are for labels that contain messages to my students from me! Companies sell six hundred labels in assorted colors for as little as \$7.95 plus shipping. Some of the messages that I have devised are: (1) Great job! I'm proud of your effort! (2) Parents: Please sign and return this graded paper. (3) You have just earned bonus points, congratulations! Teachers can customize all kinds of messages for their students. My students love to read what their sticker labels say!"

Relationships

Job Interviews

"I set up mock interviews with business owners in our community. I provide the business people with a copy of possible interview questions, the evaluating forms and a stamped self-addressed envelope in which to return the evaluations. The students travel to the businesses by bus during the school day. Since we go during business hours, the owners/managers aren't asked to give up as much of their time. Several students have found actual jobs in the community from these interviews and several have commented that they learned about some of our businesses they didn't even know existed. Positive comments about the students and the interviews from the business people have also furthered relationships between the school and the community."

Using Technology

History Pen Pals

"My history students email a fellow history student at another high school. They each write a weekly report on what they learned in American history class. At the end of the nine weeks, the students meet each other and introduce themselves to their history pen pals. This project is fun for the students, allows them to meet new friends and helps make history fun."

NEA Member Benefit of the Week:

Enter to win 1 of 4 \$500 Macy's Gift Cards at the new neamb.com

Go back to school in style! Register today for a chance to go on a shopping spree at Macy's – you could win a \$500 Macy's gift card for a whole new look. Sponsored by neamb.com's **Professional Resources** channel; no purchase necessary. Winners will be informed by mail on or before September 25, 2009. [Go here](#) to enter.

We understand how demanding this time of year can be: balancing school with a busy home life, shopping for your family and your professional needs, and looking for ways to stretch your budget. We want to do everything we can to help. So we've negotiated special offers and discounts to help you get what you need. And we've made it easier for you to access these great deals and useful classroom tools in one place – just visit the Back-to-School Savings page under Quick Links at neamb.com.

Source: www.neamb.com

NEA Member Benefit Article of the Week:

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month. Did you know:

Life Insurance Awareness Month Quick Facts

- Life Insurance Awareness Month (LIAM) was created to educate Americans about the importance of adequate coverage.
- Nearly 70 million Americans are without life insurance coverage.
- According to a recent survey, 50% of surviving spouses felt that their life insurance proceeds were inadequate.
- Experts recommend 6-9 times one's annual salary as adequate insurance coverage.
- Life events like getting married, having a baby, and buying a home are excellent reasons to purchase additional life insurance. However, if you have not experienced these events, you may not need as much coverage.
- Life insurance calculators can help you determine how much coverage you need.
- Employers typically do not provide sufficient life insurance coverage.
- 86% of NEA members are underinsured.

- Life insurance rates are going up 5-15%—but not for NEA members.
- The NEA Members Insurance Trust offers an array of competitively priced products for NEA members.

Source: <http://www.neamb.com/home/4458.htm>