

TeachME Professional Development

Helping Newcomer Students Succeed

1. What does the acronym ‘SIFE’ stand for?

- A. Students Invited For Expression
- B. Students with Interrupted Formal Education
- C. Schools that Immigrant Fathers Enjoy
- D. Students with Important Federal Exceptions

2. What precedent was established in the 1975 case Plyler vs. Doe?

- A. That all K-5 students need to be in school
- B. That newcomer students require all of their paperwork to be in order to go to school
- C. FERPA
- D. That denying children access to a public education based on their immigration status was unconstitutional

3. Is the newcomer population statistically older or younger than the United States population? Why is this relevant?

- A. Younger; this is not actually relevant, as the newcomer population is only about 1% of the American population
- B. Younger; it means that the newcomer population can help bolster our young workforce as America's population ages
- C. Older; it means that the newcomer population will need to be supported by the current native population
- D. Older; but this will not have any effect on the American population

4. Some people consider the act of immigration, in some cases, to be entrepreneurial in and of itself. Why?

- A. In many cases, immigration involves moving from a location where opportunities are lacking to another, where more are on the table.
- B. This expression applies only to traveling international vendors.
- C. As very few newcomers become entrepreneurs, this saying is rhetorical at best.
- D. This is not actually a thing that anyone says.

5. Why are we now de-emphasizing the ‘melting pot’ analogy largely popularized in the past?

- A. That analogy correctly assumes that assimilation, rather than integration, is the goal.
- B. That analogy supports integration, which is not the goal.

- C. That analogy makes it seem like the goal is for everyone to be the same.
- D. That analogy implies that Americans enjoy fondue more than we actually do.

6. Why is integration better for the mental health of newcomers than assimilation?

- A. Experts actually believe that assimilation is more helpful than integration.
- B. Integrative experts have actually had no impact on mental health, but assimilation has been shown to have negative effects.
- C. Assimilation preserves self-identity, and integration is exactly the same thing.
- D. Experts agree that having a strong sense of self-identity is central to our emotional and mental health.

7. Why is closed captioning an important investment that can help make newcomers feel more welcome?

- A. It makes it easier for everyone to stay focused, reducing potential distractions
- B. It can help English learners learn the language more efficiently and boost comprehension in class
- C. It's only worthwhile if the closed captioning is in a newcomer's first language
- D. Closed captioning is not an important investment to consider in this case

8. What's an example of a simple tool you can use to help English learning students express their emotions?

- A. A laminated chart with emojis or pictures depicting common emotions
- B. A laminated chart with written descriptions of various emotions
- C. As emotions are quite complex, there are no simple tools to tackle this.
- D. An emotional toolkit (e.g., a physical toolbox)

9. How might you go about making a 'language toolbox'?

- A. Get a toolbox, and place a thesaurus and a dictionary inside for each of your newcomer students.
- B. A language toolbox is a metaphorical way to talk about a newcomer's process of learning to speak English.
- C. Purchase an empty notebook and fill it with illustrated vocabulary and phrase words. Allow your English learners to complete it as they choose!
- D. There is no such thing as a language toolbox.

10. What are common ways that newcomer students showcase their trauma?

- A. Increased focus and overperformance; you may need to work with your newcomer student to help them relax
- B. Newcomer students are rarely traumatized, so it's not that important to watch for signs

- C. Telling teachers clearly that they are traumatized
- D. Difficulty focusing, refusing to eat lunch, crying in school

11. Why is simply being a good listener for your newcomer students most specifically a helpful response for their likely trauma?

- A. This helps model preferred behavior to young students regardless of their newcomer status
- B. Newcomer students are carrying a lot of stress, and they may not have other people around to be a receptive audience
- C. The act of listening can really help an English learner gain confidence with the language
- D. This is not actually a recommended strategy for helping newcomer students face integration

12. What is an example of a proactive strategy to help newcomer students manage their stress?

- A. Daily opportunities for art therapy
- B. Daily opportunities for naps
- C. A day off school once per week
- D. You shouldn't allow newcomer students a stress relief valve, as this will help them to acclimate to American culture better

13. How might you go about increasing student engagement with your curriculum?

- A. Make sure that your literature and subjects reflect as little diversity as possible to avoid distraction
- B. Decide what your students are going to learn without asking them
- C. Allow your students to take a project-based learning approach
- D. Allow your students to take a flipped learning approach

14. What is one good way to guide discussions of challenging or controversial subjects in your classroom?

- A. Assume they will not happen in your classroom
- B. Prepare specific talking points and phrases you can use to diffuse tense discussions
- C. Allow your students to come to a resolution on their own
- D. Send the students involved for disciplinary action

15. Why is a home visit an illuminating idea when you're experiencing behavioral issues with a newcomer student?

- A. A home visit can help you confirm that your newcomer student likely needs to be referred for behavioral issues or special education
- B. A home visit will only tell your misbehaving student that their actions have gotten them attention, so this is not a recommended strategy

- C. A home visit is intimidating, and threatening to do so will likely influence your student to pursue better behavior
- D. A home visit could give you context, and help you realize where you could provide more strategic support to alleviate stress on the student

16. What might be a good conversation to have with a newcomer family that could help build their social-emotional health?

- A. You should never talk directly about social-emotional health, as it is a taboo subject
- B. Give them an itemized list of all of the ways their student is struggling in class
- C. Coping strategies popular among your student population
- D. Coping strategies popular in their own culture

17. What is an example of a boundary you can provide to students surrounding appropriate appreciation?

- A. Only including notes about another student's physical appearance
- B. That all appreciative notes should be verbal instead of written down
- C. Avoiding notes centered on another person's physical appearance
- D. Avoiding notes centered on another student's personality or good habits

18. Who should be a member of your school's panel of administrators who provide resources for English-learning families?

- A. Your newest newcomer's parents
- B. Your newcomer student
- C. Your entire team of educators
- D. Members of your district's more diverse families

19. What is a specific way you can help an older (e.g., high school) newcomer student feel they are a part of their new community?

- A. Fight for their ability to use previous schooling as credits in the American school system
- B. Tell the other children in your class that they have to invite the student to weekend events
- C. Allow them to pursue their own interests during school time
- D. Ask their parents to ensure that the newcomer student has internet access

20. What is 'the silent period'?

- A. An hour at the beginning of every day that all students should observe in silent meditation
- B. Mandated after-school naptime
- C. The time in which an English learner observes the language around them without saying much
- D. The period in which an English learner requires silence in order to formulate their own language toolbox

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