

# 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
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### 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
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### 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
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### 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.
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### 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.
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**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.
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**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
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**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)
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**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.
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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
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**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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