

1. Read the Agree/Disagree essay and look for specific errors within the text. Correct any mistakes you find and compare your answers with a partner.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Teachers should not express their social or political views in class.

Teachers play an important role in the society, a role that extends beyond the transmission of information. To say teachers have an influence on young minds would be an understatement. Therefore, while I am agree that teachers should not use the classroom to preach their personal socio-political views, in some cases it can be appropriate for them to express their opinions on social issues.

Several instances when it would be unacceptable for a teacher to express his or her socio-political beliefs. Firstly, it would be inappropriate for an educator to use the classroom as a place to express extreme political views, especially if the point is to persuade the students. A teacher's principal role is for educate, and education should be as unbiased as possible. Secondly, it is unacceptable if the students are young children, which are often quite impressionable and may not be able to tell the difference between opinion and fact. Also, we must consider the teacher's subject; there is no good reason for a chemistry or math teacher to be giving a lecture on the country's political situation. In such a class, the teacher should focus on the academic material related to the subject.

However, there is also some situations when it would be appropriate for a teacher to express social or political views. For instance a teacher is asked directly by a student for his or her opinion on an issue, there is little harm in the teacher answering such a question. If it is done in a respectful way. Also, an

important part of education is learning how to think critically and form your own opinions, so an instructor may need to express his or her opinion just to create debate. It may be wrong for a teacher to try to influence the students' views, however, it is important that the teacher gets students to think. Lastly, the term "social issue" is very broad and includes such problems as bullying, crime or homelessness. Homelessness is a serious problem in many major cities. Part of a teacher's "important social role" could be to raise awareness of certain issues by discussing about them in the classroom.

The goal of educators should not be to influence a student's political views, and they should not be spend extensive amounts of class time lecturing on social issues that do not relate to their field of study. However provided it is done in a respectful manner, presented as an opinion and not a fact, it is acceptable for a teacher to express his or her opinion on social issues.

2. Criticism. Now that you have corrected the errors in the text, discuss the essay in groups, evaluate it and answer the following questions:

- a. What do you think about the 'hook' in this essay?
- b. Highlight the thesis statement
- c. Find one irrelevant sentence in the essay and put it in (brackets).
- d. Does the introduction and the conclusion say the same thing?

3. Write a paragraph - 200-250 Words

Include an introduction, 2-3 body main ideas + evidence/support/details and a conclusion.

You will have 25 minutes.

Use specific reasons and details to support your opinion.

1) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People are never satisfied with what they have; they always want something more or something different.

2) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People should read **only** those books that are about real events, real people, and established facts.

3) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more important for students to study grammar and reading than it is for them to study speaking and listening.

4) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All children should start learning a second language from the first year of school.

5) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? A zoo has no useful purpose and is a cruel place to keep animals.

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