

United States Census 2010

(Beginning High, Intermediate, Advanced)

Jan Fisher

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Purpose:

1. to prepare to participate in the 2010 census by filling out a sample form
2. to understand the importance of completing and returning the census form
3. to emphasize the confidentiality of answers
4. to explain the benefits an accurate count can bring to our community

Materials:

1. [The United States Census Bureau](#) (general information)
2. [The United States Census Bureau/teaching materials](#) (free lesson plans for ESL)

Vocabulary:

Accurate, count, participate, addressee, constitution, confidential, funding, political, complete, define, gender, questionnaire, verify, noncitizen, census enumerator, Census Bureau, fill out, race, related to, snapshot, confidential,.

Reading:

[The United States Census Bureau/teaching materials](#) (6 lessons with activity sheets)

The Oxford Picture Dictionary – pages 24 & 34

The Oxford Picture Dictionary Workbook – pages 24 & 34

The Way to U.S. Citizenship – pages 44-46 The Legislative Branch,
pages 50-52 The House of Representatives

Speaking:

Divide students into conversation groups with 3-4 students to a group. Try to group students with diverse languages if possible. These groups are for conversation and small group activities. Each question is answered by all of the members in the group. Distribute the sample short form from the census website lessons (Lesson 5 – Fill Out the Form). Discussion questions:

1. What is the purpose of the census?
2. How will your answers benefit our community?
3. What is one good reason to complete the census form?
4. How would you describe your race?
5. What type of home do you live in?
6. Describe how you are related to people in your family.
7. Why are the questions on the form important?
8. Has a census worker come to your home this year?

9. Do you think you will complete the census form? Why or why not?
10. Does your country take a census?

Summary guest speaker presentation:

Susan Webster, with the U.S. Census Bureau, spoke to the morning and night ESL classes. She gave several presentations to accommodate the different levels in the classes. Before Ms. Webster arrived, the ESL instructors completed some of the Census Bureau lessons from the website.

Susan emphasized the confidentiality of the census. She stressed that an accurate count would benefit our community. She explained how our community could benefit from the students' participation. She spoke for about 15 minutes and then answered questions. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Spanish flier was made available.

Writing:

As a large group, students discuss the presentation. The instructor guides the conversation by asking questions and soliciting comments. Following the large group discussion, the instructor gives some writing prompts. Students chose one to write about:

1. What is a census?
2. How does the government count people in your country?
3. The US census counts every person in a community regardless of his/her citizenship. Do you agree or disagree with this policy? Explain why. Will you complete the census form for in 2010? Explain why.