

A Teacher-led Discussion

Format: Whole-class

Topic: Cheating in School

Procedure

- (1) Before starting the activity, the teacher encourages students to interrupt and ask clarification questions when they don't understand something clearly.
- (2) To model a discussion leader, the teacher reads the article, occasionally stopping to ask comprehension checks (e.g., "Do you understand?" "Got it?").
- (3) Before asking the Factual and Reaction Questions, the teacher explains that the students should volunteer to answer and answer with some details. They can also ask follow-up questions. Then the teacher asks the questions.

Cheating in School

Why is cheating in school so common? A survey found that 90% of college students said that cheating is wrong. However, 90% of them said that they had cheated at some time in the past.

The survey found that, not surprisingly, most college students cheat because they feel pressure to get good grades. The survey also found some other interesting facts. Men were more likely to cheat than women. Also, students at large universities cheat more than students at smaller colleges.

Interestingly, very young children rarely cheat. Perhaps the reason for this is that in order to cheat, a child needs to have basic reading and writing skills, and most young children don't have these skills. In addition, when young children do cheat, they often do not understand that it is wrong to do it. They mainly do it because they see that it is an easy way to get a reward that comes with getting a good grade.

During high school years, the rate of cheating increases greatly. These students see cheating as an easy solution to a difficult challenge. The challenge is how to meet the expectations of their parents and teachers.

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Many parents don't know what to do if they find out that their son or daughter has been cheating. Most parents think that cheating is more serious than other serious problems like fighting. The reason for this might be because if a child is fighting, he will probably have physical signs on his body, for example, torn clothes or an injury. However, if a child is cheating, parents probably won't know about it unless a teacher tells them.

One reason why children cheat is because they see situations in which their parents cheat. For example, if they go to a movie theater with their parents, the parents might try to pay "children prices" for a movie ticket, even though their child is a teenager. Another example could happen at a store. If the parents pay for something and the clerk accidentally gives back too much change, the parents might not tell the clerk about the mistake. These situations show how parents can be bad examples. And from these examples, children might learn that if they want to get a good grade, it is okay to use any technique, even cheating.

What should parents do if they find out that their child is cheating? To begin with, they should not get angry and punish the child. This will put more pressure on the child and perhaps cause him to cheat even more. Instead, parents should do two things. First, they should explain to the child why cheating is wrong. And second, they should help the child develop good study skills so that he can pass the next test honestly.

Factual Questions about the article (Try to volunteer to answer.)

1. Did most college students say cheating was OK or wrong?
2. What percent of college students said that they had cheated?
3. Why do very young children cheat?
4. Do high school students cheat because (a) they feel pressure (b) they don't know it's wrong (c) they want to impress their parents and teachers?
5. Which do parents think is more serious: cheating or fighting?
6. What did the article say about cheating and movie tickets?
7. What should parents not do if they find their child has cheated?

Reaction Questions about your opinions and experiences (Try to volunteer to answer and say some details and ask follow-up questions.)

1. Do you think that cheating is sometime OK to do?
2. Can you give me an example of how students cheat?
3. Can you give me an example of how adults sometimes cheat?

