

EDUCATION

V F C R W

DISCUSSION CARDS: GIVING ADVICE



INSTRUCTION SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS:

A small group discussion activity for students to lend their experience and expertise to some individual “case study” examples of problems that could use some good advice. One student pulls a card from the stack of discussion cards and reads the situation to the other members of the group (the other group members should listen to the student tell his/her “problem”; not read the card for themselves). Once everyone is sure they understand the situation, group members can give advice to help the problem. The student with the “problem” card can ask for more information or change some details.

REQUIRED STRUCTURES: giving advice (“I think you should...”, “If I were you, I would ...”, “I wouldn’t ...”), agreeing and disagreeing

REQUIRED VOCABULARY:

GROUP SIZE: small groups

HANDOUTS: Discussion Cards worksheet, copied and cut into individual cards.

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED: none

RELATED GRAMMAR: modals, subjunctive

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

Students choose one problem card and write out their advice “Dear Abby” style.

Students can write out their own issues and submit them anonymously for peer input.

Instructor can make up additional cards based on what’s happening in the class or students’ families.

Topics for additional discussion: childrearing, education systems, cultural reflections in schools.

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WORKSHEET

DISCUSSION CARDS:

<p>I am happy my daughter has made some new friends at school. She is learning English well, but I am worried that she is replacing our language and culture with Canadian ways. Her new friends don't understand our culture or respect our traditions.</p>	<p>My son's friends are all from our culture. He speaks our language with them all day at school, so he isn't learning English. I encourage him to make Canadian friends, but he tells me he doesn't understand English well enough, and that no one wants to talk to him.</p>	<p>My son is in grade four and never has homework. In our country, students must practise their school exercises at home everyday. I talked to his teacher about this, but she says he is doing fine in class and she only gives the students homework twice a week.</p>
<p>Our daughter is in grade 12 this year and wants to go to university next year, away from home. She has many friends who are also good students, and they are going to different universities across Canada. We don't want her to move away from home; she is too young.</p>	<p>Our children are learning English and working very hard in school. They are only in grades 6 and 8 now, but we are already worried about how to pay for their college education. In my country, the government pays for tuition. We don't have extra income for this expense.</p>	<p>My children are doing science projects in class right now. I don't understand all the words, and I don't know how to help them do their homework.</p>
<p>My son has so much homework in grade 12 that he cannot get it all finished. Sometimes I help with his math, because he thinks it's too difficult. Last week the teacher said she didn't think my son did his homework honestly!</p>	<p>My 17 year-old daughter has a boyfriend at school! In my country, students are not allowed to date, and the teachers supervise the children more carefully. I am very angry with the school for not forbidding this.</p>	