

Fibs and Dogs

What was the lamest excuse you ever got for a missing homework assignment?

ANSWER: One of my third graders said he left his textbook in his mother's car, and the car was stolen by a carjacker. That could have been true, but a phone call confirmed it wasn't.

LORNA MAXWELL
Newbury Park, California

ANSWER: "I enjoyed the assignment so much I erased the entire thing and started to do it again, but I ran out of time."

JEFFREY HORNER
High school English teacher
Minden, Nebraska

ANSWER: We all have days that shouldn't happen to a dog and we don't have our homework. So I give my students three D.O.G. days: "Day Of Grace." A student without homework hands in a piece of paper with the word "dog" written on it. The next day, the student hands in the late homework or takes another dog day. I add one, two, or three points to the final grading period marks of students who haven't used their days.

I've used a few dog days myself. My planning period is canceled. The copying machine runs out of toner. The students are forgiving, but they remind me how many days I have left.

FRAN RANDLE
Memphis, Tennessee



Elementary Artists

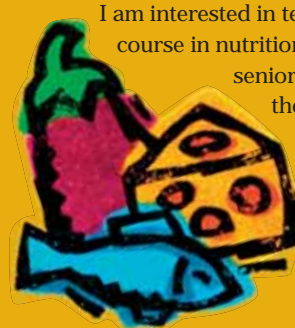
I am a grade 4-6 art teacher and will be starting an art club. Any ideas about activities and how it could be organized?

LORNA PEZANELLI, Millbury, Massachusetts

High School Eaters

I am interested in teaching an elective science course in nutrition to high school juniors and seniors. Are there programs out there like that?

JUDD HULBERT
High school science teacher,
LaMesa, California



Share your wisdom, ask your question!

What's the most unnecessary PA system interruption you've suffered in the middle of class?

Send your answers to these or other questions on this page to ajehlen@nea.org. Or, send us a question you'd like to see posted. Please include your name, your job, and the community and state where you work.

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Lyris@list.nea.org.

There are more lame excuses and Matemáticas answers at www.nea.org/neatodayextra.

Las Matemáticas

I teach English as a second language math to students in grades 6-8 who speak little English and are very weak in math. Ideas?

PAM LUCKENBAUGH
Edison, New Jersey

stick figures and diagrams, and talk your way through the problem.

For homework, assign language work based on that word problem (e.g., write a similar problem).

CLAIRE SMITH
ESL/foreign languages teacher, Vancouver, Washington

ANSWER: Spend half of your class on work that involves minimal language. For the remainder, focus on one word problem a day. Take a story approach: Use



Bio Boosting

We are developing a biotechnology program for our new high school. Are there high schools with similar programs that would be willing to share ideas?

MICHELLE DARTY
Science teacher, Maryland