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Problems I was encountering:

1. Motivate students to do work outside classroom.
2. Increase class participation.
3. Find innovative ways to teach language and math.

Strategies I learned from this class and implemented into the classroom.

1. To go beyond the textbook.
2. Started using the newspaper and Internet.
Used the newspaper for several reasons.
 1. To get the students to read.
 2. To get the students to write.
 3. To get students to learn grammar by reading the newspaper and noticing the grammar: when to capitalize, when to use apostrophes, when to commas, why is a word possessive.
 4. The article in the KVIA web site was used for a homework project. Students were required to make corrections to the articles. Next year, I'll use it as a contest to see who point out the most errors in the articles.
 5. I also used the article to get students involved in their community and find out what is happening in El Paso, U.S. and around the world. I realized the majority of the students didn't read the newspaper or watch the news. When I would mention a current event, some of the students didn't know what I was taking about.
 6. I realized when I assigned textbook homework, students wouldn't do it. Even if I told them they could turn it in late. But by using the newspaper, they were eager to do the homework.
3. Playing Jeopardy was an effective teaching strategy. Using this game I was able to combine Social Studies and math. Even though the students were reluctant to play this game, they were surprise to see how they compared to the rest of the students. And realized what area they were strong and what area they were weak.

4. Classroom observation:

1. Using the newspaper for homework also helped me with classroom participation. One of the homework assignment was to read an article, write a paragraph about the article and how they felt about the content. I would make copies of the articles for the rest of the students. We would discuss the article and talk about how they felt about the article. Students were eager to give their opinion.
2. I also learned to group the students for classroom participation. I started grouping the students or I would have the students sit in a circle. This made the students feel equal and quiet students started participating more and more.
3. When explaining a lesson, I use examples that the students are familiar with. For example, explaining the president annual budget to Congress, I first started by giving an example of a family with an income of 1000.00/ month. Then I subtracted the mortgage, utility bills, grocery, day care, gas. They have to make sure their expense doesn't exceed the income. If it does this is a deficit, if it doesn't this is a surplus.

5. Language strategies (reading writing).

1. Started off with each student reading a paragraph from the passage then class would answer the questions. This was not an effective teaching strategy. Students were bored, falling asleep and were not comprehending what was being read.
2. I divided students into groups. One group would read and answer the questions of one passage and other group would read another passage and answer question. Afterward the groups would let the classroom know what the passage was about and how they came up with the answer to each question. This approach was taking too long.
3. I implemented the strategy to read the questions first then read the passage. Students didn't like this approach.
4. I then started briefly discussing what the chapter was about and then at the end of the chapter we would go back and answer the questions. This was not teaching them how to read.
5. I continue to discuss the chapter but I started assigning the questions as homework. This has been an effective teaching strategies. We are covering the book faster and the students are understanding the passage because I first discuss the main idea

6. I used the poems by Pat Mora as practice on reading poems. Even though these poems were easy to read, the students didn't like the title and the subject of the poems. I also used the Picture Story: Emergency. This was my first group project. Everybody participated with the writing of the story.
7. For writing, we wrote an essay as a group project. We came up with the main idea, brain storming, introduction, body and the conclusion. I wrote the essay on the board, then we edit the essay and came up with the final draft. This not only help the students write essay but also increase classroom participation.

6. Math strategies.

1. I used the strategy of repeat repeat repeat. I make sure every student understands the lesson before moving on to the next lesson. If one person was having problems I would go over the lesson and come up with exercise for that lesson.
2. I made copies of credit card offers which I receive in the mail. I went to Khol's Sears, JCPenny and picked up a credit card offers. I gave copies of the credit card applications to the students and told them how to read them and why they should stay away from department stores' credit cards. I explained finance charge, the delinquency rate and to always read the fine print. This helped them understand percent and also helped them financially. Through out the year, I am always stressing the importance of budgeting and staying away from credit cards.
3. I assign one exercise to each student. Each student comes to the board and discuss how they came up with the solution.
4. Used three different books to come up with different strategy and exercises for the students.

7. Future Projects.

1. Integrate technology into the classroom. Teach students how to use the internet, email, look for jobs and fill out applications.
2. Use poems that are easy to understand. Either poems or songs. This will help the students understand how a poem is written and how to understand a poem and interpret poems.

3. Teach students how to fill out income tax form, how to write a resume and how to fill out an application for college and financial aid.
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8. Resources used:

1. Article from KVIA
2. Picture Story: Emergency.
3. From the Internet: Practice Solving Percent Problems. U.S. map showing the electoral vote.
4. Credit cards offers.
5. Pre-Algebra Steck- Vaughn
6. Pre-GED Steck-Vaughn
7. Complete GED

Name
The
Gov.

~~100~~
President and
vice president
are part of
branches of gov

What's
My
Sign

~~100~~
~~9 + 3~~

Make
Me
More

~~100~~
~~plural for
child~~

Baby
Bottle

~~100~~
used to
find
intercept of
graph

What
Am
I

~~100~~
There

~~100~~ House of
Representative and
Senate are part
of this government

~~200~~
~~10 - 12~~

~~200~~
plural for
church

~~200~~
Use to find
intercept
on graph

~~200~~
~~There~~

~~300~~
The Supreme
Court are part of
this branch of gov.

~~300~~
~~3~~
~~10~~

~~300~~
Plural for
knife | set

~~300~~
Formula for
slope

~~300~~
~~There~~

~~100~~
Two major
political parties in
the United States

~~400~~
~~-3~~
~~-4~~

~~400~~
Plural for
deer and tooth

~~400~~
Formula for
Percent

~~400~~
~~Year~~

~~500~~
Responsibility of
Federal Reserve
Board

~~500~~
~~-6~~
~~4~~
~~+ 30~~

~~500~~
Plural for
fish

~~500~~
Formula for
Distance
between 2 points

~~500~~
~~You're~~