

**This document has many hyperlinks. Scroll over answers in red to find each! I.E. #2 Eight ways to maintain student cooperation.**

# 11 Questions You'll Be Asked at a Teaching Interview

by Tom Moscovic

- 1. Why did you decide to become a teacher?** Prepare a brief professional mission statement that explains not merely how you want to change students' lives but also how your own life is enriched by being a teacher. Also, look up the school's vision statement and reference how your teaching will reflect those goals.
- 2. How would you handle a student who is constantly disruptive or defiant?** Instead of focusing on how you would react, explain the ways you approach classroom management proactively so that small misbehaviors rarely become chronic or severe. Here are eight ways to maintain student cooperation and courtesy. If the interviewers press you on the original question, this advice on students with oppositional defiant disorder may help.
- 3. How do you cultivate positive relationships with your students and create a sense of class Community?** Recount a time you bonded with a student who needed some extra attention and understanding. Show your concern for the emotional well-being of the most vulnerable students and describe your plan for developing students' social and emotional learning skills. Also explain how you create a sense of empathy and inclusion among your students so classmates support each other on both a personal and academic level.
- 4. How do you use data to differentiate instruction and support students identified with specific learning disabilities so all students can learn?** First, be ready with the names of a couple of data-rich student assessments you're familiar with. Your interviewers won't demand that they be the same ones they

use, but the fact that you're aware of testing practices is important. Then, here are 20 differentiated instruction strategies you can use to prepare your answer on how you respond to data. Also, show your knowledge of these 11 learning disabilities and describe a few ways you work with parents and school resource personnel to meet the individual needs of each child.

**5. How do you support literacy for all students, including English language learners?** No matter their content area, every teacher is a literacy teacher. Explain how you help develop your students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Here are 12 ways to support English language learners in a mainstream classroom.

**6. Do you incorporate collaborative and project-based learning?** Discuss the difference between cooperative and collaborative learning, and if you have implemented PBL, describe a specific assignment your students worked on.

**7. How do you keep your students engaged and motivated, and how do you promote student voice and choice to help them become self-directed learners?** Here are 10 engagement techniques that drive student motivation and enthusiasm. Also describe how you create a student-centered classroom that inspires creativity, passion, and purpose.

**8. How do you teach 21st-century learners, integrate technology, and guide students to be global citizens?** Be prepared to talk about how you teach global citizenship and encourage critical thinking, creativity, and good communication skills. Here are ways to integrate technology into content learning.

**9. How do you include parents and guardians in their child's education?** Recount several ways you inform, engage with, and collaborate with parents and guardians—through face-to-face meetings, notes, phone calls, or digital channels.

**10. How do you maintain your own professional development, and what areas would you select for your personal growth?** You might read books and blogs, watch videos online, subscribe to journals, attend conferences and workshops, or be a member of an educators society in your field. Be ready to talk about the specific resources you use to keep up with the latest trends in education, such as growth and benefit mindsets, flexible seating, flipped and blended learning, STEAM, trauma-informed teaching, restorative practices, mindfulness, makerspaces, and gamification of learning.

In discussing your personal growth, explain ways you want to further expand your teaching efficacy—don't refer to teaching "weaknesses."

**11. What questions do you have for us?** Try this: "Please tell me the most important thing you know now as an educator that you wish you knew before you began your teaching career." The answers you receive will reveal what your interviewers most value about education, and this insight will allow you to tailor your closing conversation to their interests.

