

Housing Lessons

Read over these two approaches to developing a curriculum unit about the same topic. How are they the same? Different? What is each one trying to teach?

Approach A

- Objectives:**
- Students will be able to identify the kinds of housing they're looking for.
 - Students will be able to read classified ads to look for housing.
 - Students will be able to call for more information.

Activities:

1. Students will learn the abbreviations commonly used in classified ads. They will play a game matching abbreviations with the correct terms.
2. Students will use a checklist to identify the three most important qualities they're looking for in their own housing.
3. Students will navigate and read housing ads on a local website (provided by the instructor) to look for housing that has those qualities.
4. Students will generate questions they have about their top choice and practice making a phone call to get the information they're looking for.

Approach B

- Objectives:**
- To help students share strategies for finding housing that meets their needs.
 - To analyze the obstacles to finding good housing.
 - To become familiar with and get questions answered by orgs working for change.

Activities:

1. Class will discuss our experiences finding housing in the past. We'll generate a list of all the strategies we have used (friends, signs, realtor, websites, etc.) and list the pros and cons of each. Teacher may add missing ideas.
2. Students will write about area neighborhoods they have lived in. Where did they feel most comfortable? Which did they like the best and why? Students share and discuss their writing, and together create a list of the qualities of "a good place to live."
3. Students will discuss, What makes it hard to find a good place to live? Or to stay where you live? Then look at/interpret a chart of the rising cost of local housing. How does it compare to their experiences?
4. Look at the signs below. What do they mean? Why do you think these people are protesting? Then read a short article about the work of a local housing organization. If students have questions about housing, generate a list and either write to or invite a guest speaker from the housing organization.

