

Is Society Responsible For The Poor? An ELT Activity About Poverty With a Powerful Flashback!



DESCRIPTION:

In this ELT song-based activity, students **TALK** about poverty and society's responsibility, **WATCH** a video in which people give their opinion, and **DO** a listening exercise, **DISCUSS** questions, **READ** lyrics and **TALK** about them and **WATCH** a music video.

OBS: This lesson plan was made for **ONLINE TEACHING**, but it can be modified for face-to-face instruction, as well.

Language level: (B2)

Learner type : All ages

Skills : listening, speaking, reading and writing

Topic : Poverty

Materials : YouTube videos, genially presentation

Duration: about an hour

Downloadable Materials: none



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STEP-BY-STEP LESSON PLAN

Step 1 (5 min)

Write on the board: "Who is responsible for taking care of the poor?" and have students give their opinions

Step 2 (5 min)

Genial.ly presentation [link](#)

Slide 01. Students watch the video with 4 people answering the question in step 1.

First watch.

Students put an X next to the right answers. (play the video 2x) [VIDEO LINK](#)

Answers			
	DOES NOT SAY	THE GOVERNMENT	POOR PEOPLE THEMSELVES
JUDITH	X		
SAMUEL			X
EDUARDO		X	
KIMMY			X

Step 3 (7 min)

SLIDE 02

Have a student read the questions, then ask students if they remember the people's opinions. Have them complete the gaps with people's names, then play the video again for them to check.

Answers:

He/she thinks that being poor is an option (Kimmy)

He/she has lost faith in the government due to poor handling of the people's money used for charity (Judith)

He/she thinks that being poor is the result of poor life planning or lack of it. (Samuel)

He/she thinks that most crime-related situations are due to the government's failure to help the needy. (Eduardo)

He/she thinks that everyone has the right to be rich or poor, and therefore, no one should interfere. (Kimmy)

Video transcript

Judith

I have heard a lot of stories about how money sent to the leaders of poor countries never reaches the people who need it. I have heard the money stays with corrupt politicians. As a result, the hope in my heart for trusting governments, and the authorities responsible for caring and providing for the poor, has died out.

Samuel

Nobody is responsible for feeding and helping the poor. It's not the government's responsibility. It is not the rich's responsibility. Nobody. Everyone is responsible for working hard to provide for themselves and their own families. If able they need to work and plan to get past poverty.

Eduardo

The government should be responsible for helping them by providing homes, food and education to change their lives. Think about the consequences of not offering help:
People suffering and dying. People committing crimes to survive.

Kimmy

Nobody. The poor don't want to be helped. They want to be poor. If they didn't want to be, they wouldn't be. They want to do what it takes to be poor: have many kids on low incomes, commit crime, drop out of school, have high teen pregnancy rates, etc. These are all choices they have the right to make. It's isn't our business. This is a free country and they can live their lives however they want.

Step 4 (15 min)

Pair work (breakout rooms). In pairs, students discuss the questions below. When they are back to the main room, have the pairs share their answers, have a mini debate.

Who do you agree the most with and why?

Who do you disagree the most with and why?

Step 5 (7 min)

Slide 03. Screen-share the lyrics to Dear Mr. President by 4 Non Blondes and have students read it. Ask them to compare the ideas in the song with what they've discussed before.

Step 6 (7 min)

Ask students to say which kind of music it is (slow, fast, happy, sad, music genre, etc) then play the music video for them to check. VIDEO [LINK](#)

Have students comment on it to close the activity.

HOMEWORK (optional)

Students Write a short text discussing the ideas in the lyrics and saying if they agree or disagree with them and why.

They must also say if they liked the song or not and why.

That's it for this week! I hope this activity is helpful and enjoyable!

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Happy teaching! :)

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[FACEBOOK](#)

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Are your students **ENGAGED** and **EAGER** to **LEARN ENGLISH**?
Or just bored and unmotivated?

Do you **use songs creatively** in your class?
Or just the same old gap fill worksheet?

Do you want to be **more creative** in your teaching?
Would you like to use songs in a **meaningful** way
and grab your **students' attention**?

Click [HERE](#) to know how!