

LA 5.5: Life on the Edge

Surviving in Difficult Circumstances



Learning Outcome	Pedagogical Intent	Student Position
Provide support and advocacy. Employ strategies to empower parents/families to participate in their child's education. Assessment: 25 pts. TA: 30 Minutes	Teachers can provide environments of safety to these students to enable them to feel safe as they learn in school.	Students have learned about children in trauma. They have read about poverty, trauma, and homelessness. They will now discuss the game played throughout this session to be able to identify with students living in these conditions.

Instructions

1. Take your last turn in the 'Life on the Edge' game.
2. As a group, discuss how each of you survived your time in the game. Discuss these questions:
 - What stressors could members of a family feel when even one of the issues comes up in their lives?
 - Do you know of any agencies that can assist families to keep or find new housing?
 - What behaviors might children in these families exhibit when they are living in fear that they might become homeless?
 - What can you do to provide a safe environment for these children when they are in school?
3. Participate in a class discussion about advocacy and what allows people to move from silence to advocacy.
4. The facilitator will give you 10 minutes to sign up for your group to complete the final major project for this course, the Advocacy Position Paper and Presentation.
5. You will find sample topics for which you can advocate located below these instructions, or you may select your own. Meet as a group to exchange contact information and to begin thinking about a topic.

Possible Topics for Advocacy Position Paper

Possible Topics for Advocacy Position Paper

1. Equity with respect to helping students achieve high Common Core standards.
2. Strong relationship-building skills and attention to social-emotional needs of students.
3. Cultural knowledge and ability to incorporate background, culture, language, and funds of knowledge into instruction.
4. Specific pedagogical skills—formative assessment, room set up for greater participation, scaffolding instruction for levels of proficiency.
5. Understanding of laws and policies from the government related to teaching diverse populations. (Title 1, Office of Civil Rights, ESSA, FERPA, etc.)
6. Cultural knowledge that enables teachers to support parents and families in assisting students to learn.
7. Second language acquisition and its application in classrooms with ELs.
8. Assessment practices teachers should use in their work with English learners, both formative and summative.
9. Building resiliency in students who have trauma due to one or numerous reasons.
10. Becoming a watchdog in your school to be sure programs and practices are available to all students, not just those who are privileged or advantaged.

There are many more topics, but these might get you started.



Egan, M. W., Hales, V., & Gomm, R. J. (2019). *Family, School, and Community Partnerships*. EdTech Books. Retrieved from <https://edtechbooks.org/partnerships>