

NO SWEAT COVERAGE!

Finding something to cover when nothing's happening

CURRICULUM/TEACHING

- Using the Internet
- Lack of history, geography, economics skills
- Math scores down
- Hooked on Phonics: does it work?
- Tracking students: the hidden curriculum
- How teachers turn students off/on to special projects
- How teachers show they do/don't care for students
- Multiculturalism
- Taking courses for college credit
- Chronic shortage of teachers
- Using the World Wide Web
- Internet plagiarism
- Block scheduling
- Interactive video curriculum
- School-to-Work Opportunities Act
- Single-gender schools
- Performance-based Graduation Requirements
- Troops-to-teachers project
- Libraries: under-funded, out-of-date (books on technology, printed in 1972).
- Computer-based instruction
- Literacy campaigns
- Patriotism curriculum
- Non-certified teachers (or teachers teaching out of their area of certification)
- Shortage of technology/math/science teachers
- School-to-work programs
- Availability of AP courses
- Volunteerism

TESTING

- Math/science gender gap
- Test mania
- PSAT bias against girls
- Grade inflation
- Social promotion
- De-emphasis on SAT for college admission
- Portfolio testing



STRUCTURE/GOVERNANCE

- The changing roles of school boards
- Four-day school week
- Year-round schooling
- School consolidations
- Increasing length of school year
- Corporate/school joint ventures
- Open records: how much access to teacher/administrator background
- Tuition tax credits; school vouchers
- How safe are school buses?
- Should students pay to ride school buses?
- Charter schools
- E-mail policies, Internet use
- Special Education, IEP plans
- Distance learning
- Merit pay for teachers

SCHOOLS AND SOCIETY

- The Jock Culture
- Hazing
- Year 2000 computer glitch
- The 'glass ceiling': inequitable treatment of girls in schools
- Corporal punishment
- Illiteracy: Functional illiteracy and adult illiteracy
- Cheating
- Teacher absenteeism
- Race preferences and college scholarships
- Goals 2000: How reasonable?
- Home schooling
- Dress code, uniforms

☞ = Contents may be hot.

Proceed with caution.

- Profanity in the classroom
- Teachers who moonlight
- Bi-lingual education

☞ FAMILY ISSUES

- Disintegrating home environments
- Step-families
- Sibling rivalry
- Working parents
- Latch-key kids
- Overly strict/overly lenient parents
- Parental disapproval of friends, dates
- Grandparents
- Loneliness/boredom/alienation
- The pressure to succeed placed on students by family

☞ TEEN SEXUALITY ISSUES

- Premarital sex
- Abortion, contraception
- Parental notification/consent for abortion
- Date rape/date rape drug
- Teen parenting
- Distribution of condoms at schools
- Sexual harassment in the schools
- Abstinence as a lifestyle choice
- Paternity suits; deadbeat dads

☞ RELIGION

- Teen religious behavior
 - Prayer at graduation/athletic events
 - Evolution/creationism
 - Allowing religious groups access to school facilities
 - Satanism and/or cults
 - Student-initiated prayer in school
 - Using Bible as classroom textbook
 - Pressure placed on students by
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Bored covering the same old things? Try one of these

- teachers/coaches
- Religion in the curriculum

DROP OUTS/ AT RISK STUDENTS

- Driver' s licenses and drop outs
- Driver' s licenses and drug testing

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- Illegal drug use by junior high and high school students increased last year after decreasing for several years, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported.
- Illegal IDs
- Teen hotlines
- Peer counseling
- Teen courts
- Steroids & athletics

TEXTBOOKS

- Selection process abuses
- Textbooks that don' t tell the truth
- Boring textbooks
- Health textbooks in Texas
- Proposals to replace textbooks with laptop computers

HEALTH ISSUES

- Tanning salons, dangers of sunburning
- Obesity
- Sleep disorders
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Sports injuries
- Hepatitis C
- Anorexia/bulimia
- Tattoos and body piercing
- Health insurance
- Vegetarianism
- Hunger: one in 8 children in households without enough food
- Suicide: one in three teens in a national Gallup survey say they have contemplated suicide
- Agriculture Department says that meals served in the federally-subsidized school lunch-program are much too high in fat and salt.

ISSUES OF ETHNICITY

- Racism
- Affirmative action and quotas

- Prejudice/discrimination
- English Only movement
- Interracial dating
- Recruiting and retaining minority teachers
- Race-based college admissions
- Ebonics
- Black/white test score gap

SOCIETY/CULTURE

- Poverty: The U. S. has highest childhood poverty rates in the industrialized world.
- Columbine and its aftermath
- Our materialistic culture
- The absence of values
- Impact of the Starr Report on schools: Internet use/class discussions
- Censorship of music by Wal-Mart, etc.

CRIME

- School violence: Family disintegration and portrayals of violence in the media are the two leading causes of an "epidemic" of violence in public schools, school district leaders say.
- Kids and guns: how to get them; why they bring them to school?
- Impact of school shootings
- Gangs
- Safety during the school day
- Safety at after-school activities, especially sports
- Shoplifting
- 1-900-numbers
- Date rape
- Vandalism/Graffiti
- Theft of school property by school employees
- Teen curfews
- Social skills training
- Teen courts
- Zero tolerance drug policies
- Violence against teachers; workplace assault insurance

HISTORY

- Can you find possible feature stories arising from dates 10, 15,

25 or 50 years ago?

- Connect local people to movies based on historical events (i.e. Titanic, Schindler's List, Saving Private Ryan, etc.)

TRAVEL

- Interesting trips/experiences abroad
- How has strong U. S. dollar affected Americans traveling overseas?
- Culture shock in traveling overseas.

CURRENT ISSUES /EVENTS

- Guns/Columbine aftermath
- State and local elections
- Animal testing and animal rights
- Gun control/ assault weapons
- Militia movements
- Christian coalition
- Assault on environmental protection laws
- Advertising at school: corporations target captive audience
- Homeless/hunger in America
- Environment and waste disposal
- Texas lottery & gambling
- Welfare reform
- Kosovo/NATO bombing
- Insurance for children
- Media censorship
- Affirmative action

ECONOMY

- Loss of income by parent(s)
- Job availability/part time work
- Shortage of jobs for teenagers
- How dangerous are jobs for teenagers?

NCAA/COLLEGES-UNIVERSITIES

- Illegal college recruiting
- Proposition 48
- Cutting back scholarship grants and loans
- SAT scores raised
- University/school collaborations
- College admissions
- Affirmative action policies
- High school athletes going "pro." Reactions, effects.