

Questions from watching TIMSS

1. Should we (US) change our methods of teaching? (Is it sufficient for our children?)
2. Will having my students try to figure out problems on their own at the beginning of class cause frustration?
3. Would a US teacher be able to structure his classroom in a problem-solving way like the Japanese classroom? (Are US students conditioned otherwise?)
4. Why don't US schools try to incorporate more student exploration-based lessons?
5. Why do American schools set students up to slack off and do the minimum amount required?
6. Why does the American aide only sit behind a desk rather than interact with the students? (It's as if they aren't even there.)
7. How do I want to teach?
8. Is there a "happy medium" between how Japan teaches and what typically occurs in our (US) schools?
9. How do we as teachers incorporate some of the Japanese theory and philosophy into our own classrooms?
10. How do we move away from the focus on learning skills and tricks for Regents exams to structure learning that will best fit our students and their success on these exams?