

COMMUNITY VOICES



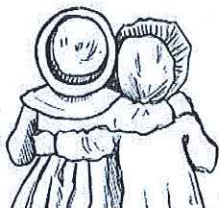
ESOL



Learning



through Storytelling



NOAH



2016

This book is intended to be used by ESOL students in the lower levels by using common words, phrases and vocabulary. The exercises will help the students learn how to deal with daily life, work, and friends. After the students read the stories, we want them to take away how important it is to learn English and encourage them to keep learning for a better future for themselves, their family, and community.

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Thanks to all who helped develop this book.

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MONKEYS ON MARGINAL STREET

(By Richard Marchi)

In the 1940's, the men on East Boston's piers loaded grain off the trains into a great building called the Grain Elevator. The grain from the train was lifted into large containers. Ships from all over the world came and took the grain to faraway places.

The sailors felt lonely because they spent many months away from their families on the boats. When they visited exotic places, they often bought a monkey to keep them company. The monkeys were funny and smart. They climbed around and played with the sailors.

But when the sailors returned to Boston, they realized that the United States' Customs laws didn't allow them to bring the monkeys on shore. They had to leave the monkeys on the ships.

The workers from the dock went home on weeknights and weekends. The monkeys were smart and hungry, so they went to live in the Grain Elevator. When nobody was there, the local boys sneaked into the old Grain Elevator building and watched the monkeys. The boys tried to capture the monkeys, but they never could. The boys yelled and waved their arms at the monkeys and the monkeys yelled and waved their arms back at the boys! The boys threw stones at the monkeys, but they could never hit them. The monkeys were too fast and too smart but the monkeys threw things back at them too.

Some people in East Boston still remember this story. It reminds them of a crazy time and what an amazing history our community has to offer.

A) Verbs

Directions: write the present or past of the following verbs

REGULAR VERBS	IRREGULAR VERBS
present - past	present - past
- loaded	- was/were
- called	- came
- lifted	- took
- visited	- felt
- climbed	- spent
- played	- bought
- returned	keep -
- realized	bring -
allow -	- had
live -	- leave
- sneaked	- went
- watched	- could
- tried	- threw
capture -	- hit
- yelled	
- waved	
remember -	
reminds -	

B) Synonyms (pair work)

Directions: rewrite these phrases using the new vocabulary from exercise A.

1. Fill up: _____
2. Hello/ Goodbye with hand: _____
3. Can do something: _____
4. Pick up: _____
5. Talk loud: _____
6. Go up: _____
7. Give back: _____

C) New Vocabulary/Phrases

Directions: write sentences using the phrases in a separate piece of paper

- 1940's (*why an "s" at the end?*)
- grain
- piers/docks
- sailors
- ships
- exotic places
- lonely
- amazing
- offer
- United States' Customs laws
- weeknights and weekends
- yelled and waved their arms (*gesture*)
- *It* reminds (*pronoun*)

D) Location

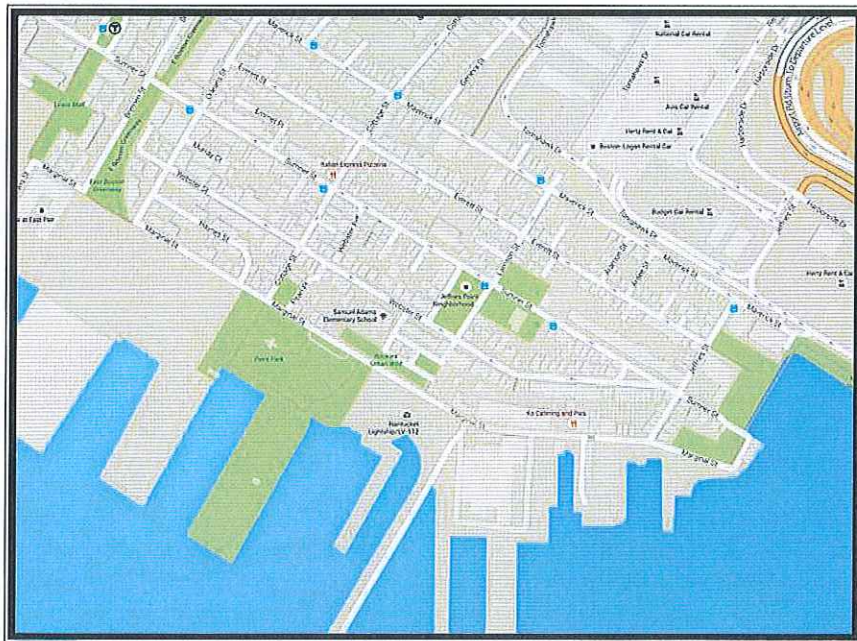
Directions: write your answer

1- Where is Marginal Street?

2- Where was the Grain Elevator building before?

3- How do I get to the Grain Elevator from _____?

East Boston



Monkeys on Marginal...

E) WH questions

Directions: use the picture and write your answer

1. What is behind the hanging monkey?

2. How many buttons are there?

3. Who are in the picture?

4. Where is the ship?

5. When was this picture taken?

6. Which sentence describes the picture better?

A) The boy and monkey are yelling and waving at each other.

B) The monkeys are loading the ship with grains.

7. Why are there grains on the floor?

MERIDIAN MARKET

Meridian Food Market

SUBS - PIZZA

SOUP - C

Meridian Market





MAKING SOMETHING YOURS

(By Dorothy Noviello)

1
The town of Avellino, in Italy is about 1 hour from Naples and around 3 hours from Rome. You can drive to see the Pope from Avellino! That's where I come from. In 1961, I came to East Boston with my 8 siblings. I went to school in Boston for some years and also worked in a factory for a few years. Then 16 years ago in 2000, we decided to buy a restaurant. The previous owners sold us the restaurant and they had owned it for 35 years. We bought the restaurant so we could provide for our family and have a better future. I put my kids to work so they could help us. It made us stronger and we worked together. We have been here for a while now. We did not change the name because we just took over an existing business. Only our immediate family runs the business. My husband and I are the owners and my three sons work with us. I have been in East Boston all my life.

2
In owning a restaurant, you get to meet people, see new faces and different cultures in East Boston because it is such a diverse city. I like when people tell us we are doing a good job because when the customers are smiling, we are smiling. We are known for our signature gourmet deli sandwiches. We sell hot sandwiches, cold sandwiches, salads, and dinners. We sell pasta from Italy. My sister is one of the cooks in the kitchen. One of our cooks has also been here since the last owners. Our cooks bring out the food and interact with some of the customers. We have a lot of Spanish people that come into the store.

4
Throughout the years, business is up and down. There are days when you're busy and days when you're slow, but that is business! We would never give up. Giving up is for losers. We push through it!

5
My advice in not knowing English and you have a job is stick with the job. Eventually you will get to know the language and catch on. I understand Spanish because I speak Italian. There are a lot of classes around the area where people can better themselves and learn English. I didn't know any English when I came from Italy. I had to better myself and my kids say I learned pretty well.

A) New phrases

Directions: write the phrases in your own words

Phrase from Story	In your own words
siblings	
took over	
immediate family	
run	
stick with the job	
catch on	
pretty well	

B) Around the World (group work)

Directions: write your answer in a separate piece of paper



1. What do I need to know before I travel by bus, train or plane?
2. What are the important things I need to pack?
3. What do I have to do at the bus stop or airport while I am traveling?
4. How can I get to Italy from Boston? What are the steps I have to take? (group work)

C) Family Values (individual, then pair share)

Directions: write your answer in a separate piece of paper

1. What stories FROM YOUR PAST do/will you share with your children?
2. What do you want your children to know about your country? (food, culture, or music, etc)
3. Make a family tree: a) of immediate family only in Boston/USA
b) of immediate family in your country

My FAMILY tree in USA/Boston

My FAMILY tree in my country

D) Responsibilities with a business (class discussion)

Directions: write your ideas in a separate piece of paper

1. Would you ever own a business/store? Why or why not?
2. If you owned a business, would you give your family a job? Why or why not?
3. Think of your family, what role would you give your family members and why.

E) Employee or Owner (pairs)

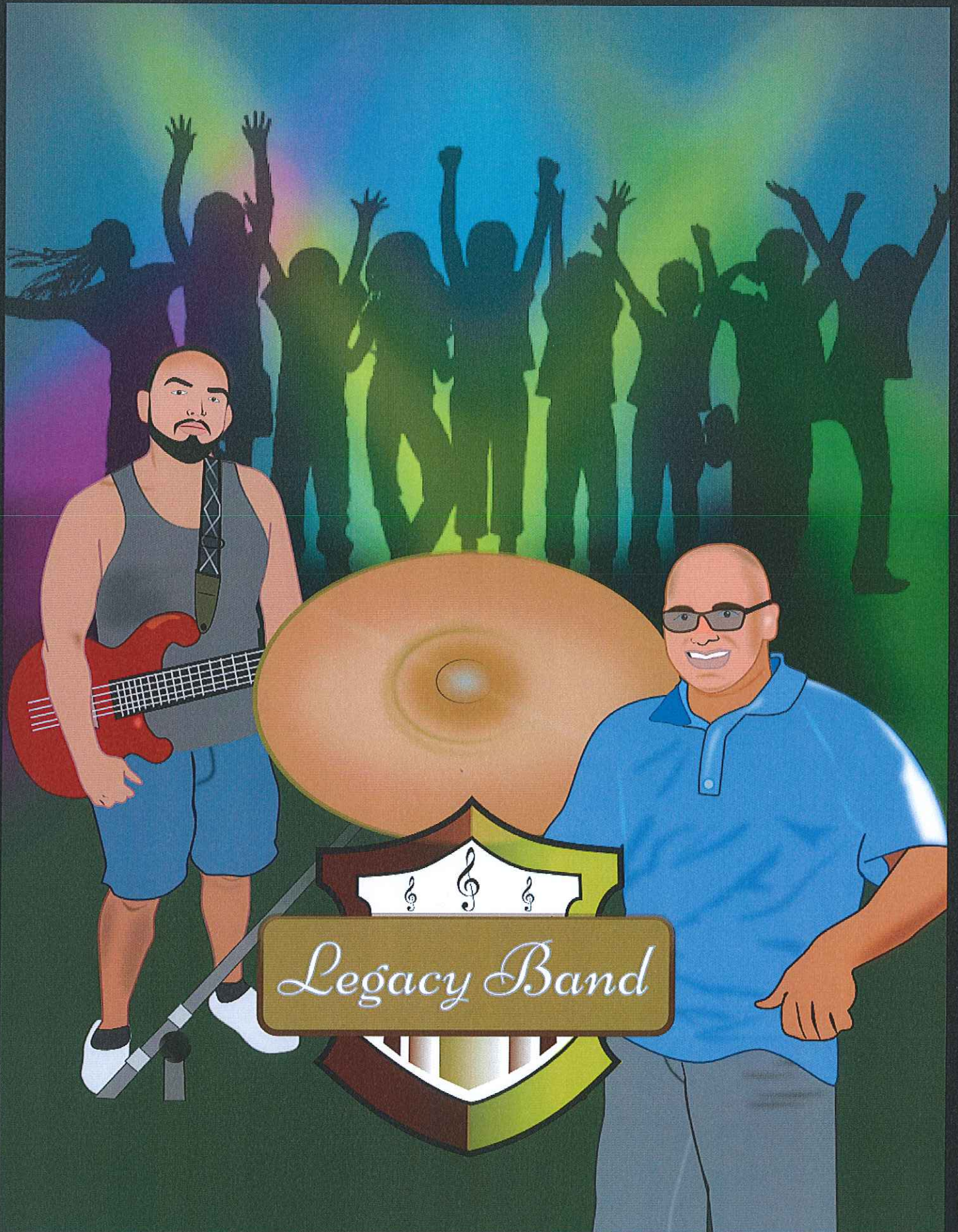
Directions: write their responsibilities

EMPLOYEE	OWNER

F) Who has it better? (pairs)

Directions: a) put an X if it is good or bad for Employee and Owner
b) write 3 other examples

	EMPLOYEE		OWNER	
	Good	Bad	Good	Bad
hours				
know the products well				
responsibilities				





NOT GIVING UP

(By Jose M. Navarrete)

1
I've liked the saxophone and piano since I was young. When I was 13 or 14 years old I got interested in music. It was a way for me to stay out of gangs, drugs, and stay off the streets. During that time, gangs were developing and I wanted to stay away from the bad influence in the high school, on the streets, and not do drugs.

2
I went to school to learn music and I met some members of Grupo Versatil. I got close to them and started learning music. This kept me away from the bad influence. After that, the music was in me, and I was able to find new people and form a new group. Everyone helped and that is how we started Legacy Band.

3
Legacy Band is my band and passion. I started it in my basement. I played alone. I was able to find people who were interested in the group, wanted to join and help. We have nine people in the band including the manager. I am the singer of the band and the others are musicians. Legacy Band is on its 6th year now.

4
I've been trying to have a mix of people in the group. There are Salvadorans and Dominicans and that is a mixture of two cultures. Our band sounds like cumbia from El Salvador and the Dominican sound of merengue and bachata. Caribeño music with a twist of "cumbia" is the rhythm we play where ever we go. We have a nice mixture of music and sound to make people dance all kinds of music. For dance and to have a good time, people always request cumbia, bachata and merengue.

5
This mixture of music and culture also gives us the opportunity to go beyond our state borders. We've been in six different states and we contribute it to our Boston community. We play for community festivals, activities on the waterfront and in the library. We get a lot of support from our Eastie community.

6
My advice to our children, our youth, and our big immigrant family is to be more united. No matter what happens in this country. If we are united, we can help each other and reach our goals. We should always keep learning. And if anyone wants to learn music, look for that help. Don't stop and keep going.

A) Comprehension (group work)

Directions: write your answer for the following questions

1. What instruments did he like since he was young?

2. Why did he want to focus on music?

3. Where did he start the band?

4. Who is the singer of the group?

5. What two cultures are in the band?

6. What kind of music do people request to have a good time?

7. How many states has Legacy Band visited?

8. Who supports them the most?

9. Why should we be more united?

B) Advice (individual then class discussion)

Directions: write your opinion

What do you think of the advice he gives - "My advice to our children, our youth, and our big immigrant family is to be more united." How can we help our children, youth and immigrant families? What do you do to help other people?

C) Problem solving (group work with flipchart paper)

Directions: In your group, you have to think of a problem and then your activity will have to fix it. The group will present it to the class.

Think of a NEW activity that can help a specific group.

- Think of a problem for that group.
- Make an activity that can help this problem.
- Explain why you choose this activity
- How many times will the group do the activity
- What will be at the activity (food, entertainment, babysitters...)
- Make a flyer/poster of your activity to show the class and explain it

Women	Children	Animals	Community	Men
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D) Opinion (individual, then group work)

Directions: write your opinion

1. How can we keep kids "off the streets"?

2. What is a passion you have? What gives you a piece of mind? (For example: dancing, crotchet, organizing, planting...)

3. What is your favorite kind of music and why?





A LOVING FRIENDSHIP

(By Berta Lidia Valdivieso and Zoila Chicas)

Nosotros somos muy buenas "comadres"¹."

We met more than fifty five years ago. We are from the same town, Citalá, in the Department of Chalatenango, El Salvador. Our friendship started when we were little girls. When we first met, we felt comfortable with each other. Since then, our friendship has grown. We always remember when we used to go to church and spent time talking to our friends about our future.

Each of us got married and had our own family. We used to visit each other, talk about our children, support each other in times of need, and brought food over to each other (like bean soup, rice, tortillas or other things). We also talked about our problems. "Our friendship grew stronger when my "comadre" Zoila became a widow," says Berta. Berta's husband passed away. "Yes, Berta was my "right hand," she was there when I needed her," says Zoila. We are so close that we have even talked about dressing each other when we pass away.

As time passed and our children grew up, they started coming to the United States. Without us realizing it, they came to East Boston.

When we came to East Boston, we still went to church together. One day, we heard about this place called NOAH and that they had English classes. One day, I told Zoila: "Let's go... let's go learn English." Zoila says, "Berta was always pushing me, motivating me, and finding ways to help me." Berta tells me, "Come on, comadre. Let's go to the school..." and because it is difficult for me to learn, I feel like I'm taking someone else's opportunity to learn. But I did take the classes with her. While we were taking the English classes, we also took the Citizenship classes. I remember telling Zoila: "Ok Comadre, this is our chance, let's take the Citizenship class.

To this day, we do many things together. Our children know how thankful we are to each other, and that they have to help their friends in time of need. Now, Zoila has become a citizen and Berta is waiting to do her citizenship test.

¹ comadre: term used when a person is referring to their child's godmother

A) Comprehension

Directions: write your answer

1. What are some things Zoila and Berta do for each other in the story?

2. How long have they known each other?

3. What happened to Zoila that made their friendship stronger?

4. Why doesn't Zoila want to study English?

5. Who became a citizen?

B) New phrases

Directions: fill in the blank with the correct phrase

without	in times of need	has grown	to this day	after a while
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1. The plant _____ a lot because it is next to the sun now.
2. I'd like to order a cheeseburger _____ tomatoes and onions.
3. The glass had a crack. _____, it finally broke.
4. I don't get along with my brother but _____
_____, I help him.
5. A bee stung me when I was young. _____, I am still scared of them.

C) Friendship (individual, then class discussion)

Directions: write your opinion

What are the benefits of having a close relationship with someone? Do you think it's a good idea to have a small group of friends or a lot of friends? Do you still talk to your close friends? If not, why? If yes, how?

D) True friend or not (class discussion)

Directions: put an X in the right column

	True friend	Not true friend
get you in trouble		
steal money from you		
makes fun of you in a bad way		
jokes around		
gives things back broken		
takes care of your stuff		
keep secrets		

Caring for the Community



**East Boston
Neighborhood
Health Center**





MY MOTIVATION

(By Manuel Lopes)

I'm proud to have been born and raised in East Boston. My parents were immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands. Their marriage did not last long so my mom raised us alone. Her five children know what it meant to do be raised by a single mother. We knew the sacrifices our mother made to keep food on the table and clothes on our backs. I lived in the same three decker home for a long time.

My mother never went to school in her own country or had the opportunity to gain the necessary skills for reading or writing. But she did not see that as a barrier. She wanted more for herself and her family, and that's why she bought a house because she knew it meant stability. Back then, my mom was able to get a loan by simply raising her right hand and agreeing to make monthly payments because she was illiterate - cannot read or write.

My mom knew the benefits of becoming a citizen and when I was eleven, she decided to become a citizen and help her siblings escape a civil war in Angola. She needed to learn how to read and write to pass the US Citizenship test. I became her tutor. After three years of studying in the evening, she passed her test on her first try.

When it came time for her children to work, we all contributed. My first job was delivering newspapers when I was 9. Then I worked in a restaurant at 11, cleaning squid - some sort of fish. Then, finally a real job at 13-14 years old at the New England Aquarium, because I told them I was 16. But when I turned 16 years old, I worked in the kitchen with my brother in a hotel and I said to myself, "Wow, this is a really tough job!". I could do it but I knew there had to be a better way to earn money.

After graduating from high school, I started working at the East Boston Health Center. I continued with my education and have a university degree. Now, I am the CEO of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center.

Education is an important opportunity in any level. The Education Training Institute is the legacy to future generations in East Boston because we believe in three important principles: give people an opportunity to get into the workforce; health care is changing and our staff needs to learn how to do their jobs better and gain more skills; and for people to move up in their jobs to earn more.

America is a land of opportunities. You can do what you want to do in this country. Yes, there are some barriers and challenges and we need to acknowledge them but it shouldn't be something that stops us. If you are motivated to succeed in your personal life, career and/or family, continue to learn English. This is the first step!!

A) Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Directions: write your opinion about the story

1. Why do you think Manny's mother didn't go to school?

2. Why did she buy the house for stability?

3. As a parent, what are the benefits of becoming a citizen?

4. What is a "real job"?

5. What are other examples of "non-real jobs" where you grew up?

6. What are some ways people can continue learning in life?

B) Being motivated (class discussion)

Directions: write your ideas

What is a goal (big or small) you have finished? Why did you set this goal? Who encouraged you? What motivated you to do it?

c) Money Talk (group work)

Directions: write your answer

1. What are some key phrases we should look for when we go shopping to save money?

2. What items should we buy with these key phrases?

3. When should a credit card, debit card, or cash be used when shopping?

D) Opinion (individual then class discussion)

Directions: write your ideas

Manny says: Education is an important opportunity in any level.

This means in every level of life not just school. When you have a question about something do you ask someone or do you do your own research? Do you believe the person when they give you the information or do you do your own research also?

Why?
