

What's the use?

learning at school

One of the criticisms students frequently express is that a lot of what they do at school has nothing to do with them.

What comes up in conversations with youngsters is that often what they learn has no relevance to their lives, therefore they frequently feel bored at school.

With a curriculum which has to be followed and exams to prepare for, can we even attempt to make learning more relevant to our students? If so, how?

How can we show them that some things that may seem irrelevant, are in fact relevant to what they want to do?

Could our students provide some answers?

- Give out photocopied sheets and ask students to think what they have learnt at school
- Tell students to imagine that they have two hats: the first one is a 'complaining' hat, the other an 'appreciating' hat.
- Ask them to put their 'complaining' hat on and do this activity in a negative state of mind.
- Have them change their hats and go through the grid in their 'appreciating' hat and do the activity in a positive state of mind.
- Ask students to write their thoughts in the grid on the sheet.
- Focus on any positive answers you get and have students discuss the possibility of seeing more of what they learn at school as relevant to them.

What have you learnt at school that is/was/has been relevant to you?
(write in the empty spaces)

useful straight away	possibly useful in the future
interesting	helping me understand things
about me	about people who matter to me