7/24/2012 Class Discussion

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| What’s Wrong with US High Schools | What’s Right with US High Schools |
| Classes are too big and too impersonal | Hands-on experience with new technology |
| Materials are too inconsistent—some out of date | Free public education |
| Cutting electives | Community of adolescents |
| Graduation rates depressingly low | Individual teachers passionate role models |
| Underfunded continual budget cuts | Forced interaction with diverse group |
| Teaching to lowest common denominator | Teachers who really care risk takers |
| Focus on test scores rather than learning process | Priority on math education |
| Horrible lunch programs | Separation of church and state |
| Lack of student agency in choosing learning | Range of curriculum options |
| Teachers with social science backgrounds are biased by own experiences | Increased use of culturally relevant pedagogy |
| Days are too long | Increased availability of outside school resources |
| Inequality among schools based on location | Teachers work with individuals within their specific learning styles |
| Teen pregnancy | Sense of urgency for educating for skills and competency |
| Lack of exposure to essential life skills | Extracurricular activities (sports, music….) |
| Standardized curriculum to meet testing objectives | Leadership in groups |
| Adolescent males unprepared/unwilling to attend college | School/parent conferences |
| No assessment of teacher instructional quality | Integrating education on food systems |
| Disconnect between students-teachers-administrators-parents | School bullying being dealt with instead of ignored |
| Unresolved conflict about purpose of schools | Teacher accountability can be raised |
| Teacher biases about students |  |
| Inequality—race, SES, language, |  |