



Description:
Youth with Disabilities in Juvenile Corrections (Part 1): Improving Instruction

Notes: _____



Description:
My name is Rita Sikes, and I spent a number of years teaching in public schools.

Notes: _____



Description:
During that time, I had several students who entered the juvenile justice system. Some of these students returned to school to complete their education,

Notes: _____



Description:
whereas others continued to struggle and ended up back in a youth or adult correctional facility.

Notes: _____



Description:
Recently, I decided I was ready for a career change and felt drawn to working with these students. You see, it's important to me to help young people get their lives back on track.

Notes: _____



Description:
By teaching in a juvenile correctional facility, I believed I could help them get the education they needed to be successful.

Notes: _____



Description:
So last year I took a job teaching in the Maple Hill Juvenile Corrections Facility.

Notes: _____



Description:
Even before my very first day at the facility, I knew that security measures and behavior management would be issues to contend with.

Notes: _____



Description:
I anticipated that many of my students could be behind their grade-level peers academically.

Notes: _____



Description:
As it turns out, though, I had a lot more to learn.

Notes: _____



Description:

For one, my students' achievement gaps were much greater than I was prepared for. This is in part because so many of them have disabilities, including behavioral or mental health issues.

Notes: _____



Description:

And then there are other challenges: lack of school records or significant delays in receiving them. This shortage of information makes it difficult to plan effective instruction.

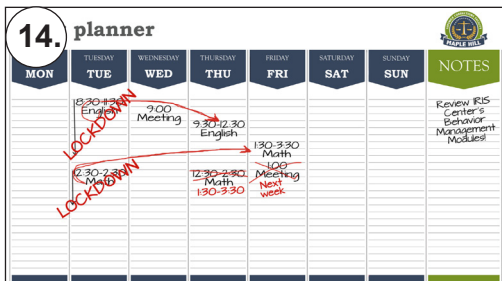
Notes: _____



Description:

Adding to my difficulty is the fact that students are only in my class for a relatively short period of time. Most youth leave this facility within six months.

Notes: _____



Description:

Further, instruction is frequently interrupted due to changes in the daily schedule.

Notes: _____



Description:

Despite all this, I am more determined than ever to do a better job with my students, especially now that I know that so many of them have disabilities.

Notes: _____



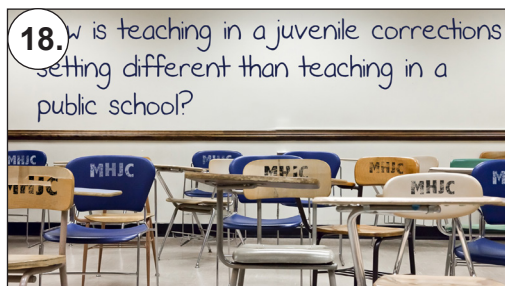
Description:
What I don't know is how or where I should start.

Notes: _____



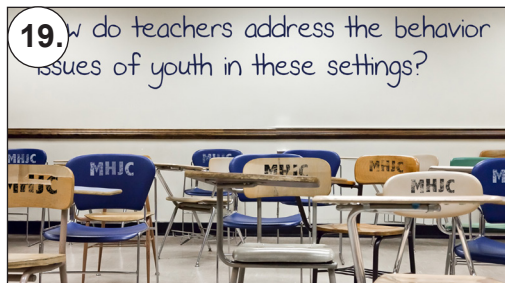
Description:
Here's your Challenge.

Notes: _____



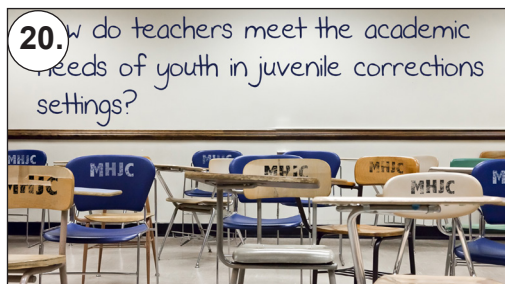
Description:
How is teaching in a juvenile corrections setting different than teaching in a public school?

Notes: _____



Description:
How do teachers address the behavior issues of youth in these settings?

Notes: _____



Description:
How do teachers meet the academic needs of youth in juvenile corrections settings?

Notes: _____

