

Helicopter Parents: Activity 3: Surveying the Text

Before you read Strauss's "Putting Parents in Their Place: Outside Class," discuss the following questions in your groups and be ready to share:

1. What does the title, "Putting Parents in Their Place: Outside Class," tell you about Strauss's position on appropriate parent involvement in schools?
2. What does it mean to "put someone in his or her place"?
3. Why are there two parts to her main title (i.e., one before and one after the colon)? What does the subheading—"Too Much Involvement Can Hinder Students' Independence, Experts Say"—suggest?
4. What do you think is the article's purpose?

Activity 4: Making Predictions

Read each section of the text below, one line at a time. Before you continue on to the next line, answer these questions: (1) What do you notice? (2) What words and ideas seem to be important? (3) What do you predict the next section will be about?

"They are needy, overanxious and sometimes plain pesky." "—and schools at every level are trying to find ways to deal with them."

"No, not students. Parents—specifically parents of today's "millennial generation" who, many educators are discovering, can't let their kids go."

Pairs Conversation: Now make a prediction with a partner about the rest of the article. What type of parent behavior do you think the article might describe as a problem? What do you think the article might suggest about schools "dealing" with these parents?

Activity 5: Asking Questions

Write the answers on your own paper to the following questions and be specific:

1. Whom do you think Strauss will describe as "the millennial generation"? What do you think she will say is special or different about this group of kids?
2. What do you think the article might say schools and parents can do to improve students' independence?
3. Turn the subheading "Too Much Involvement Can Hinder Students' Independence, Experts Say" into a question. When you read the article, think about the question, and write down your answer.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Activity 6: Understanding Key Vocabulary

Read the definitions for each of the words in List A. Then use your knowledge of these words to write your own definitions and sentences for each of the words in List B from Strauss's "Putting Parents in Their Place." Consider how the addition of prefixes or creation of a compound word impacts meaning.

List A

1. involved

Definition: interested, engaged, absorbed, connected, or concerned

2. anxious

Definition: worried or apprehensive

3. managing

Definition: handling, directing, or controlling

4. reliance

Definition: confident dependence or trust

List B (You will need to write small enough to fit on this page!)

1. hyperinvolved

Definition:

Sentence:

2. overanxious

Definition:

Sentence:

3. micromanaging

Definition:

Sentence:

4. self-reliance

Definition:

Sentence: