

Questions about Corruption and Transparency

Teachers, here are 60+ discussion or writing questions to bring to your classes. They are not organized in any way, and don't need to be addressed in any order. Choose those that you like and bring them to class. Or print all of them and let students in small groups choose which they will talk about.



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1. What is corruption?
2. Give a one sentence definition of corruption.
3. Why does corruption exist?
4. How much should presidents earn per year?
5. If someone has been president for 5, 10, 15, 20 years, does it mean that he may be corrupt?
6. Should public servant's salaries be high or low? If they are low, will they be tempted to supplement their income?
7. Should you give a tip to a doctor after an appointment?
8. Should you give a tip to a policeman?
9. Should you give extra money to a hairdresser or barber to get served earlier than others?
10. Should you give a tip to a waiter at a restaurant after good service?
11. If someone has been president for 5, 10, 15, 20 years, does it mean that he may be corrupt?
12. Should teachers accept gifts? What kind are acceptable, and what for?
13. Do students at your school ever pay for better grades?
14. Does the low salary of teachers tempt them to take money from students?
15. High-stakes testing is an industry. What's so wrong about paying for results?
16. Will we ever have a world without corruption?
17. Is corruption natural? Inevitable?
18. Do we expect our leaders to be a little/a lot corrupt?
19. Are we willing to accept a little corruption in the government? Why?
20. Do you trust the police in your home town/country? Why? Why not?
21. Has a stranger ever helped you and then quickly asked for something in return (like money)?
22. Has a stranger ever helped you and asked for nothing?
23. Does leaving work an hour early constitute corruption?
24. What's a whistleblower?
25. Do you respect a whistleblower? If a colleague is not being honest, should you report him/her?
26. If government officials are paid too little, is it okay for them to make a little extra by taking bribes from citizens? Why? Why not?
27. Where you live, are there corruption problems in government?
28. Where you live, are there corruption problems in law enforcement?
29. Where you live, are there corruption problems in the courts?
30. Where you live, are there corruption problems in the medical system?

31. Where you live, are there corruption problems in schools and education?
32. Does your area/country have corruption problems in industry? Which industries?
33. Do corrupt people feel ashamed? Do they believe they deserve to cheat others because of their place in the system? Why? Why not?
34. Why does corruption exist in some countries and not in others?
35. What, in your opinion, are the least corrupt countries in the world? How did they get to be that way?
36. Do you believe that good, virtuous people can learn to take bribes? Would you?
37. Do you believe in the adage "Power corrupts?" Absolute power corrupts absolutely? Give examples of why or why not.
38. Should local people charge tourists more than other locals, for museums, crafts, or food? Why or why not? Is that a form of corruption?
39. If you were a president and had power, would you become corrupt?
40. What's a kickback?
41. Do you think you'd accept a kickback now and then, if you were in the position to?
42. 38. What's transparency? What is the big fuss about it?
43. What should governments be transparent about and what things are they allowed to keep secret?
44. Should government officials' salaries be private, or public knowledge?
45. Should teachers be transparent about grading? Are they? Give an example from experience
46. Do you understand why you get certain grades?
47. Do you think corrupt people consider themselves corrupt?
48. Why is it so hard to prosecute corrupt officials?
49. Is it possible to be corrupt alone, or do you need the help of others?
50. Do you respect people that expose corruption or not? Give examples.
51. How can we protect journalists or others that try to expose corruption?
52. Picking someone's pocket is stealing. Is corruption that bad?
53. If the clerk at the shop gives you back too much change, should you keep it or give it back
54. Do corrupt people think of themselves as criminals? Why or why not?
55. What can you do about corruption in your country?
56. Would you give your teacher a gift, and hope it helped your grade?
57. How do you remove corrupt workers from their jobs
58. What is the largest bribe you have paid?
59. Is it good when someone hires his brother, sister, or uncle at work?
60. Have you heard any corruption cases in the news?
61. Do policemen earn enough money in your country to be perfectly honest?
62. Would you ignore a crime if you saw it?



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