It is an undeniable fact that teacher effectiveness is one of the most critical factors influencing student achievement. The better the teachers are, the more the students achieve—plainly, simply, unequivocally. Therefore, don’t underestimate the power of these ten-minute inservices. If you’re providing the training and following up on the assignments, teaching is going to improve in your school, ten minutes at a time. Now let’s spend ten more minutes improving teaching, and therefore learning.

**INSERVICE**

Remind your teachers that in the previous inservice, they identified characteristics of both effective and ineffective teachers. They then identified a few of their own areas of weakness and began working on improving in those areas. Tell them that today you will allow them to work with partners to discuss how both effective and ineffective teachers might handle given situations in their classrooms.

Have each teacher choose a partner. If there is an uneven number, put three people together. Provide the following scenarios:

**Effective Versus Ineffective Teaching Practices**

- A student is constantly tattling on other students. The tattling is obsessive, and it needs to stop. Describe how an ineffective teacher might handle this. Describe how an effective teacher might handle this.
- A student is constantly making noises in class. The noises are aggravating everyone. Describe an ineffective teacher’s response. Describe an effective teacher’s response.
- A student is refusing to turn in any of her homework assignments. What might an ineffective teacher do? What might an effective teacher do?
- A student is chronically talking in class. She talks while the teacher is speaking, she talks during independent assignments, she talks when everyone is supposed to be quiet on the way to lunch, and so on. Describe how an ineffective teacher might handle this, and then how an effective teacher might handle it.
- The school is adopting a new program, and no one knows how effective it will be—or how ineffective. Its implementation will require training and hard work on the part of the teachers. Describe how the ineffective teacher and the effective teacher might each meet the challenges of this new program.