

# Scaffolding difficult topics for meaningful discussion

Robin Russ, Kansai University

#### Appendix A

#### Internet Research

You will be working in a group of 3 people. Research ONE website for EACH question, a different site for each group member. Take brief notes on the information you find. Use key words or key phrases. Next week you will report your information to the other group members.

#### I. Famous prisons of the world

- <www.cleavebooks.co.uk/grol/dumas/ zprisons.htm>
- <www.doorly.com/writing/famous\_prisons. htm>
- <www.dirty-rotten-scoundrels. co.uk/2008/06/30/the-10-worst- prisons-inthe-world>

### 2. What is the condition of Japanese jails and prisons?

- <www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/12/16/1039656342348.html>
- <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human\_rights\_in\_ Japan>
- <www.prisontalk.com/forums/showthread. php?t=116787>

#### 3. Death penalty in Japan

- <www.japanfocus.org/\_David\_ McNeill\_\_C\_M\_Mason-Dead\_Men\_Walking\_Japan\_ s\_Death\_Penalty>
- <search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ nn20070227i1.html>

 <www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ ASA22/006/2006>

Some of the information in English can be difficult. You do not have to understand everything. Read the information and make notes of the key points you want to remember. In some cases the website can be found in Japanese so you can use the Japanese website to read about the issue.

Make notes to summarize the information. Notes must be written in English.

Next week you will report to your team members in English.

Good luck!

#### Appendix B Criminal or Victim?

#### 1. Sunday, June 8, 2008 Tokyo-Akihabara

- Do you remember the event that happened on this day?
- Where were you when you heard about it?
- What was your initial (first) reaction to the news?
- How do you feel today when you think about it?

#### 2. Imagine you are a news journalist.

- Write a headline for this news event.
- Write 3 sentences as a journalist reporting the event.

3. Make a list of key words (vocabulary) that relate to the event.

### 4. What other similar crimes do you remember happening in Japan?

### 5. How do you think society should treat such people?

### Appendix C

#### Punishment? Rehabilitation?

#### Part One

- In the article about Kato, what are the key points in the section reports?
- What facts do you know about Kato from the article?
- What is Kato's situation today? Where is he? Did he have a trial in the courts? What is his sentence?
- To what degree is Kato a criminal? (mark your opinion: 0% 100%) To what degree is Kato a victim? (mark your opinion: 0% 100%)

#### Part Two

- 1. Make a list of all the different types of crime you can think of.
- 2. Make a list of reasons that might cause someone to commit crimes.

#### Part Three

- 1. Write a definition for:
- Punishment
- Rehabilitation

2. What kind of rehabilitation programs do prisons have? If you don't know, can you suggest programs which might be used for helping prisoners rehabilitate themselves?

3. Do you think people can change?

#### Appendix D

#### Doing Time, Doing Vipassana

- **Punishment** a penalty for an offense committed.
- Rehabilitation restoration to normal life by training and therapy after imprisonment

## A. Work with partner. Decide which of the vocabulary is in the category of punishment and which is rehabilitation.

solitary confinement	community service	drug treatment	isolation
counselling	strict rules	limited visitation	job training
hard labor	anger management	physical restraining devices	yoga
family visitation	literacy & higher education	religion	death penalty

### **B.** Do you know what these words mean? Write the Japanese:

3. Who is Kerin Bedi?

- doing time \_\_\_\_\_\_
- inmate/prisoner \_\_\_\_\_
- warden \_\_\_\_\_
- experiment \_\_\_\_\_\_
- reform \_\_\_\_\_
- meditation \_\_\_\_\_\_
- under trial \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Write the answers as you watch the film.

- 1. Where is Tihar Jail (what city and country)?
- 2. How many prisoners are there?

- 4. Why did she try this experiment?
- 5. How many prisoners did the meditation course?
- 6. How could meditation help the prisoners?

#### D. Write your impression about the documentary.