

Central Southern Tier RAEN Conference, April 7 & 8, 2014

We Are New York

TV Series for Adult ESL Learners

Victoria Capeci, Instructional Facilitator, NYC DOE: OACE

Office of Adult and Continuing Education
New York City Department of Education
Rose-Marie Mills, *Superintendent*



We Are New York: Objectives

- **Morning Session:**
Explore the series and strategies for using it in the classroom
- **Afternoon Session:**
Create and share activities for use with our students



We Are New York

Series Overview

- Developed by CUNY and The Mayor's Office for Adult Education
- 10 half-hour episodes
- Real-life themes
- Focus on collaborative problem solving
- Make learners aware of free resources

We Are New York: Part One

- Overview of the WANY series
- Free resources for teachers & students
- Focus Episode : Stay in School
 - Structure of WANY episodes
 - Teaching Strategies Activities
 - Activities



We Are New York: Welcome

Have you ever used WANY with your students?

What went well?

What didn't?

We Are New York Website

www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish

- Can stream video directly from the site
- Lots of free downloadable resources for students and teachers
- If you don't have access to technology, there are enough print resources to teach each episode without video.

We Are New York Website

www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish

Explore these parts of the website:

- **Episodes & Resources**
- **For Educators**
- **Helpful Links**

We Are New York Website

Episodes & Resources

- Important Words
- Study Guides
- Low-level Reader
- Magazine (English & translated)
- Script

We Are New York Website

For Educators

- Classroom Materials
- Connections with other teachers using WANY

Helpful Links

- Connect to various community resources related to themes presented in the WANY episodes

We Are New York: How do we bring it to the classroom?



NO



YES

We Are New York: Building Learning Activities

WANY is a springboard for an **infinite** number of effective learning activities to help our students develop fluency in English.

speaking

writing

reading

grammar

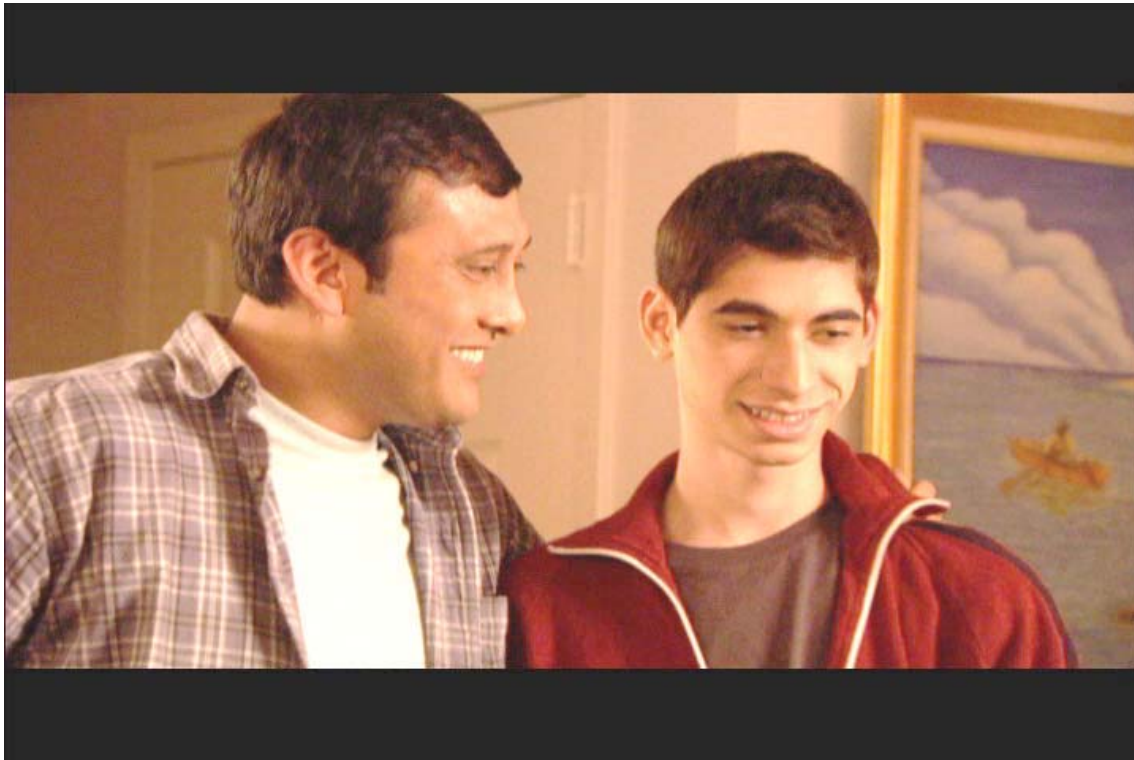
pronunciation

We Are New York: General Teaching Tips

Don't "do" one entire episode per class session

- Break it down into segments
- Revisit the video several times for several purposes

We Are New York: Focus Episode



Stay in School

We Are New York: Stay in School

Preview Activity

Vocabulary

- Chance to have a conversation in English
- Draw on students' prior knowledge
- Formulating definitions helps them deepen their understanding of vocabulary
- Spark interesting discussion about shades of meaning

We Are New York: Stay in School

Starting Out First Viewing

- Introduce ideas of characters/setting/plot: attending to these elements of any story helps build a framework for understanding it
- Open-ended, student-centered way to address new vocabulary

We Are New York: Stay in School

Continue the Journey

Don't make the whole trip at once.
Stop along the way.

We Are New York: Stay in School

First Stop: Turn and Talk

- Important to give students time to grapple with the content. Don't spend all your time just watching
- Important to follow-up on pair discussions
- Orient students vis-à-vis plot

We Are New York: Stay in School

Problem & Solution

- Each episode features immigrants facing problems and solving them
- This form is very open-ended, how might you modify it?

We Are New York: Stay in School

Post-Viewing

- Revisit the content for deeper understanding.
- The possibilities are endless.

We Are New York: Stay in School

Grammar

Nouns and Verbs

- Based on WANY content, you can make an activity to deal with any grammar point under the sun.
- Be mindful of who your students are and what would be useful for them.

We Are New York: Stay in School

Grammar: Nouns and Verbs

Students can recognize nouns and verbs.
So what?! Can they **use** them?!

WANY offers ample opportunities for students to **apply** their knowledge of grammar.

We Are New York: Stay in School

Summaries

- Build fluency
- Digest grammar
- Digest vocabulary
- Deepen understanding of plot

We Are New York: Stay in School

Real-Life Application

Each WANY video poses **problems** and shows how immigrants find **solutions**.

Have students **create something concrete** they can use to **be proactive** in their own lives.

We Are New York: Stay in School

Publish

- Engage students in longer-term writing projects that require several steps:
brainstorm, research, organize, draft, revise, edit, publish, reflect
- Students at ANY level can publish

We Are New York: Stay in School

Publish

Ideas for writing projects:

- Advice Sheets
- Character Studies
- Informational Booklets
- Graphic Novels
- Scripts

We Are New York: Stay in School

Wrapping Up

For you, what are the big **takeaways** of using We Are New York in class?

What **questions** do you have about the series or approaches to bringing it into the classroom?

We Are New York: Part Two

Objective

Create, evaluate, and share activities for use with our students



We Are New York: Part Two

Agenda

- groups by level
- planning considerations
- watch **Love** and **Money**
- make an activity
- share and reflect



We Are New York: Part Two

Considerations for Planning

Think of....

Who: student level / needs

When:

- preview
- based on a specific scene
- post-viewing based on the whole episode

We Are New York: Part Two

Considerations for Planning

Think of....

What:

- speaking/listening
- grammar
- vocabulary
- writing
- adapting existing WANY resources

We Are New York: Part Two

Approach: Productive Struggle

- give students a chance to use English
- active student engagement
- avoid “chalk and talk”

We Are New York: Part Two

Focus Episode: Love and Money

Sophie mistakenly thinks Jorge is rich, and vice-versa.

They learn about banking and personal finances in the U.S.



We Are New York: Love and Money

Create

- **Activity Planning Template** is located on the desktop of each laptop
- Use a hard copy to take notes
- Activity files will be emailed to you



We Are New York: Love and Money

**Share
&
Reflect**



We Are New York: Love and Money

Wrapping Up

