

GRADE 12 LANGUAGE LEARNING

Holy Cross High School Term 2: 2020

LET US TALK ABOUT A MATRIC DANCE

Everything Matric Dance related

OUTCOMES

- You will need to be able to read and respond to a text about the matric dance event
- Recognise and use persuasive language
- Discuss Matric Dances and being responsible
- Produce a point form summary
- Identify and use nouns, verbs and pronouns
- Identify and use simple and complex sentences
- Debate the financial costs of a Matric Dance
- The end result of creating an argumentative essay

LET'S ACTIVATE OUR IDEAS

- Have you ever attended an event as a guest?
 - Describe the event.
- How did attending the event make you feel?
- What plans do you have for your Matric Dance?
- Why do you believe that the Matric Dance is so important?
- Were you looking forward to attending your own Matric Dance?
 - Why or why not?
- What stories have you heard or read about Matric Dances?

GET INTO IT: A MATRIC DANCE CONTROVERSY

- Activity 1: Read some opinions on an internet poll
 - Read the passage below. It explains the opinions that follow. You and your partner should take turns reading the opinions aloud and pretending that you are these people.
 - Many Matric learners look forward to attending their Matric Dance. However at a school in the Western Cape, one Grade 12 learner was banned from attending this special event because she was caught kissing her boyfriend on school premises. Her mother argued that she should not be banned and requested a court case to argue against the ban. The court argued in favour of the school's decision.
 - An internet poll was held to get the opinions of members of the public on the matter. A poll is a survey that asks a specific question or questions that the public answer. The question in the poll was: Do you think that the school was right to ban the schoolgirl from attending her matric dance after kissing her boyfriend on school premises?
 - The public posted their opinions on a website. Here are some of the opinions:

OPINION 1: POSTED BY LINDI 2005-09-27 16:36:03

Opinion 1 Posted by **Lindi** 2005-09-27 16:36:03

I believe that kissing at school between kids is very bad behaviour and is therefore totally wrong and inappropriate. Our children should learn to take responsibility for their behaviour and they must be prepared to face the consequences. With the number of children getting pregnant while at school, kissing at school should not be allowed at all. Rules are rules and our kids need to know how to respect them. That teacher did the right thing by banning that pupil from the dance. Who knows what they'll do next?

OPINION 2: POSTED BY PAM 2005-09-27 15:31:47

Opinion 2 Posted by **Pam** 2005-09-27 15:31:47

When you reach matric, you are a grown adult and should be considering your future and how people will **perceive** you in the big world. Why should someone be rewarded for misbehaving? Evidently you are not ready to be seen as a civil young lady or gentleman if you can't be a role model for the ones following behind you. So basically schools are saying to the younger kids, "It's okay to misbehave." Where's the discipline in that? Already, most of our schools' images have been **tampered** with! What happened to being proud of your school and the uniform or blazer you wear?

OPINION 3: POSTED BY MICHAEL 2005-09-27 14:08:27

Opinion 3 Posted by **Michael** 2005-09-27 14:08:27

In this case I believe that the student should not have been banned. It must be a very old-fashioned teacher to consider kissing bad behaviour ... Are we back in the 17th century?

OPINION 4: POSTED BY COBUS 2005-09-27 12:15:48

Opinion 4 Posted by **Cobus** 2005-09-27 12:15:48

Actually, the misbehaving pupil should be forced to wait on the rest of the learners at the dance, and clean up the venue afterwards. Even though she will still be at the dance she will not be allowed to participate, as she would have. Also, seeing the fun her classmates will be having should be punishment enough!

OPINION 5: POSTED BY JESSIE 2005-09-27 10:14:37

Opinion 5 Posted by **Jessie** 2005-09-27 10:14:37

Being excluded from the matric dance should punish Grade 12 pupils who misbehave. The dance is a very important part of the matric experience - and that's exactly why being **deprived** of this privilege will **deter** kids from bad behaviour in future.

OPINION 6: POSTED BY TESSA 2005-09-27 10:12:12

Opinion 6 Posted by **Tessa** 2005-09-27 10:12:12

I am constantly amazed at the lack of respect and responsibility shown by children and parents alike at various events I attend (theatre, cinema, musical, etc). The matric dance should be seen as a symbol of having matured sufficiently to attend a **semi-adult** function. The costs are expensive and remain for a large majority of teenagers and parents like myself almost impossible. Should the matriculant not be mature enough to behave, perhaps a children's party with clowns and balloons under adult supervision is the alternative. Parents should be disciplining their children and teaching them how to become socially acceptable adults.

OPINION 7: POSTED BY SHANNON 2005-09-27 09:58:57

Opinion 7 Posted by **Shannon** 2005-09-27 09:58:57

Of course she should be allowed. It's the one thing most matriculants look forward to and the last time to have a massive party with school friends.

OPINION 8: POSTED BY ANONYMOUS 2005-09-26 20:59:41

Opinion 8 Posted by **Anonymous** 2005-09-26 20:59:41

No!! I feel that they should not be allowed if they do not behave like decent human beings.

OPINION 9: POSTED BY DIABOLIQUE 2005-09-26 14:16:37

Opinion 9 Posted by **Diabolique** 2005-09-26 14:16:37

Since teachers have been effectively **neutered** from applying any form of discipline and most parents seem too **spineless** to deal with their own children, discipline in schools is a very serious problem. We have seen how our children do not respect their teachers any more. An example is the schoolboy who stabbed his classmate with a pair of scissors in Mpumalanga in front of his teachers. From this it is clear that discipline is not being addressed in many schools. One can therefore conclude from this evidence that the state of our educational system is in crisis and something needs to be done. I agree with the school's decision because of the problems our schools are facing. Has it now reached the stage where the courts have to make these decisions? It's no wonder the wheels of justice turn so slowly.

OPINION 10: POSTED BY ANONYMOUS 2005-09-26 12:58:03

Opinion 10 Posted by **Anonymous** 2005-09-26 12:58:03

If learners feel strongly about attending such a memorable function then maybe they should show a little responsibility with regard to their behaviour and realise that people are not rewarded for lack of consideration and respect, both in and out of school. Yes, the matric dance is a vital part of high school but you can't have your cake and eat it!

OPINION 11: POSTED BY ANONYMOUS 2005-09-26 12:43:59

Opinion 11 Posted by **Anonymous** 2005-09-26 12:43:59

I would like to state that some matric learners have no control or discipline. I had a very difficult matric year. I lived in a residential area but had no electricity due to financial **constraints**. I used to study in the dark with a candle every night and the wax used to fall on my work notes. "Close" friends always **mocked** me but I never let that stop me. When I wrote my final matric exams, I got five As and my friends ... NONE. My point is most matric students out there are so privileged to have everything, yet they waste their time doing things that are irrelevant in their lives. I understand that your matric year is the last year of your schooling career but there is a limit and a point where the line must be drawn. According to me the school definitely did the right thing! So to all you matriculants out there, please appreciate what you have and use it wisely. Nothing is impossible in life. Even studying for and passing your matric final exams - exams that will determine the rest of your life. Try and do that for one night and see if you can achieve five distinctions.

OPINION 12: POSTED BY WENDY 2005-09-26 12:12:50

Opinion 12 Posted by **Wendy** 2005-09-26 12:12:50

The truth is that some parents don't discipline their children, thus misleading children. It is extremely disgusting to read about parents who are backing up children when they are obviously wrong. This 17-year-old was wrong; schools are neither brothels nor pubs. What is this kissing story at school? What impression was this girl giving about the entire school to the public? Parents should respect the rules of the schools. There are rules and regulations set in our schools and I strongly feel that these must be respected.

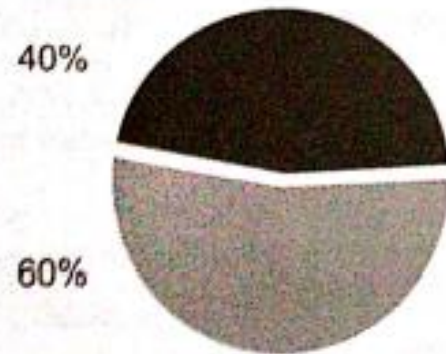
POLL RESULTS/COMMENTS

Poll results/Comments

Poll question:

Do you think that the school was right to ban the schoolgirl from attending her matric dance after kissing her boyfriend on school premises?

Poll results:



* This chart is generated every five minutes and percentages may not match actual number of votes

■ Yes (367 votes)

■ No (542 votes)

Poll results adapted from www.iol.co.za

WORD POWER!

ACTIVITY 2: FIGURE OUT THE MEANING OF WORDS (1)

You can work out the meaning of words by looking at the context in which they are used.

1. Find a word at the beginning of the text above that means the same as “survey”.
2. What does “ban” mean?
3. What does “role model” (opinion 2) mean? Use the word in a sentence to show that you understand the meaning.
4. Look at the term “semi-adult” (opinion 6). What does this term mean in general? In the text the word means that:
 - a. The Matric dance function is for young adults
 - b. The Matric dance requires learners who attend to have manners
 - c. The Matric Dance is for learners who look like adults.

WORD POWER!

ACTIVITY 2: FIGURE OUT THE MEANING OF WORDS (2)

You can work out the meaning of words by looking at the context in which they are used.

5. The word “neutered” (opinion 9) usually refers to a procedure whereby pets such as cats and dogs are made infertile, so that they cannot have babies. In opinion 9, what does this word imply about the power the teachers have to discipline learners?
6. The word “spineless” (opinion 9) literally means “without a spine”. Figuratively the word describes a person who does not stand up for what he/she believes in. Explain how the word is used in the opinion and what it implies about how parents are raising their children.
7. Here are some words you might be unfamiliar with:
Use each one of these words in a sentence related to the text to show your understanding of both the context of the word and that of its relevance to the text.
 - a. Civil: civilised, well mannered.
 - b. Mature:
 - c. Massive: big, huge.

ACTIVITY 3: MATCH WORDS AND MEANINGS

Match the words in Column A to their meanings in Column B. Look at how people have used them in the above opinions to help you work out what they mean.

Column A- Words	Column B- Meanings
Perceive (Opinion 2)	Limitations
Tampered (Opinion 2)	To see something in a certain way
Deter (Opinion 5)	Made fun of or teased
Deprived (Opinion 5)	Took something away from someone
Constraints (Opinion 11)	Interfered
Mocked (Opinion 11)	To prevent

ACTIVITY 4: RESPOND TO THE TEXT (1)

- Answer the following questions on the above text. Use your own words as much as possible.
1. In two or three sentences, explain the incident that occurred at the school to which the public is responding.
 2. How did the school respond to this incident?
 3. What was the reaction of the mother of the girl?
 4. Find two opinions in the text that were written by parents and give a reason why you think each was written by parents.
 5. Which opinions are for and which are against the decision that the school took?
 6. Which opinions consider the role of parents and discipline?
 7. What point did Michael (opinion 3) make by asking the question, “Are we back in the 17th Century?”

ACTIVITY 4: RESPOND TO THE TEXT (2)

8. By saying that the learner should rather attend a children's party with balloons instead of the Matric Dance, Tessa (Opinion 6) implies that:
 - a. The learner misbehaved and should be punished.
 - b. The learner's behaviour was immature.
 - c. The learner is still young
9. What reason does Shannon (Opinion 7) give for saying that the learner should be allowed to attend the Matric Dance?
10. The poll question asked about an incident involving one Matric learner. But the writer of opinion 8 writes, "I feel that they should not be allowed..." Why do you think the writer uses the word "they"?

ACTIVITY 4: RESPOND TO THE TEXT (3)

11. The phrase “wheels of justice” that Diabolique (opinion 9) uses refers to:
 - a. The legal system
 - b. The educational system
 - c. Discipline in schools
12. Do you think that Diabolique agrees with the schools decision to ban the learner?
Quote a sentence from opinion 9 to support your answer.

ACTIVITY 4: RESPOND TO THE TEXT (4)

13. What proof does the writer in opinion 9 give to substantiate the claim that learners don't respect their teachers?
14. What does the expression "you cannot have your cake and eat it" mean in the context of opinion 10.
15. Why does Anonymous (opinion 11) put the word "close" in inverted commas? What point is he or she making about the friends?
16. Does Anonymous (opinion 11) support the school's decision? Choose a sentence from the opinion to support your answer.

ACTIVITY 4: RESPOND TO THE TEXT (5)

17. Is the following statement true or false? “Diabolique (opinion 9) believes that parents should rather let the schools discipline their children as the schools are more effective when it comes to disciplining children.” Quote from the relevant opinion to support your answer.
18. Wendy (Opinion 12) states that “a school is neither a brothel nor a pub”. What is she implying about the learner’s behaviour?
19. “There are rules and regulations and I strongly feel that these must be respected” (Opinion 12). To what or to whom do “these” refer?