

## SPEEK Overview

Hey you.

You are imaginative, opinionated, love asking questions, speak with gusto, write well and bored by textbooks...

... you belong in SPEEK.

Talk. Laugh. Be yourself.

**Spontaneous • Perceptive • Eloquent • Erudite • Kinesthetic**

## SPEEK Philosophy

What's the point of having potential? When you don't question, challenge, re-create? Potential must be crafted. Creativity encouraged. Astutely. Tenaciously. Enthusiastically. And always, topped with copious fun and whimsy.

**SPEEK is about** appreciating our world through multiple perspectives. SPEEK exposes youths to current affairs to their broaden worldview, not sensationalise. SPEEK hones the ability to compare and contrast, synthesise a wide body of knowledge, or argue a point of view. The interdisciplinary approach draws on various fields:

history, socio-politics, geography, economics, psychology, philosophy, culture, science and technology.

Materials include maps, statistics, cartoons, diagrams or quotations for youths to apply knowledge in the interpretation of the materials.

SPEEK trains youth for the rigor of future academic success.

*View below for examples of SPEEK.*

### Objectives

- develop 360° analysis
- imbue global outlook
- cultivate maturity of thought, thinking
- develop proficient use of language
- appreciate the interrelationship of ideas across disciplines

### Skills

- clear, accurate and effective communication
- evaluation of arguments and opinions
- independent reading and research
- make observations of patterns and relationships

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### Example on Socio-Political Issue: Foster Care

#### Understanding the topic through background reading:

General info on foster care <http://www.fosterparenting.com/>

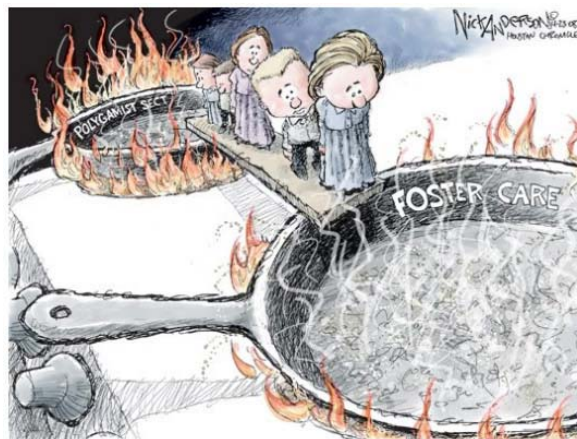
Foster care promotional video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubBfXc3UOrw>

Commentary: Can Texas take the children? <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/04/16/sunny.child/index.html>

Apology to Australia's Stolen Generation <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TZOGpG6cM&feature=fvst>

#### Task:

Source A



Source B

Text adapted from: <http://www.headliners.org/storylibrary/stories/2009/PIL>

Fostering appears to be quite a positive arrangement, but Hoz and Shahinera tell us about negative experiences.

Hoz talked about a girl he knew who went through something similar: “Her foster mother was extremely mean to the girl; she wasn’t doing anything for her and wasn’t buying her anything. When she went out she asked the girl to get out and stay outside the house and she would lock the house. She would come back whenever she wanted to. The girl couldn’t explain what was happening because she couldn’t speak English.” Luckily, the social services were eventually told by someone who knew her language as well as English, this helped to right the situation.

Shahinera shares a bad experience; “My first foster mother wasn’t that understanding. She bought stuff for her adopted daughter but nothing for me. I used to lock myself in my room but she never tried to come in and see if I was okay.”

It wasn’t just the foster residencies which led to problems; it was also the Social Workers: “Sometimes you get the impression that you have to shout to get something,” says Hoz. Whilst Shahinera adds: “They take action after the damage is done. Whenever it suits them.”

Source C

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Text taken from: [http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/faml\\_nurture\\_childprotection.asp](http://app.mcys.gov.sg/web/faml_nurture_childprotection.asp)

Children who are registered with MCYS' Fostering Scheme are usually children whose parents / guardians are in ill-health and unable to look after them, or children who have been abandoned, neglected or ill-treated by their parents / guardians.

The Fostering Scheme serves as an alternative care arrangement for children in need of a conducive home environment. It is usually a short-term arrangement to meet the emergency care needs of a child. In some cases, it may become a long-term care arrangement if the parents / guardians are unable to work out suitable care arrangements for their children.

### Criteria to be foster parents

- \* must be residents of Singapore;
- \* preferably married;
- \* at least 25 years old; and
- \* must be medically fit to care for children.

Foster parents must also not be recipients of the Public Assistance Scheme and the family must not be dependent on the fostering allowance as a main source of income.

### Source D

The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

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Questions
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### Source A

1. With evidence from the cartoon, discuss the cartoonist's view of foster care for children from a polygamist sect?

### Sources B & C

2. With reference to the potential problems of foster care, discuss the usefulness of Singapore's Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports' Criteria to be foster parents.

### OR

3. Create your own criteria for foster parents and justify bearing in mind the problems of foster care

### Source D

4. Australia apologised for its former policy of removing aboriginal children from their families. The belief was that aboriginal children would benefit from care by White Australians. Why do you think the policy was more acceptable previously and less acceptable now?