

# PADRÃO DE RESPOSTA - LÍNGUA INGLESA - Grupos F e K

Read the texts and answer the questions.

*The New York Times*

## The Opinion Pages

Op-Ed Contributor

When Teachers Talk Out of School

By Jonathan Zimmerman



1 In 1927, Helen Clark, a schoolteacher in Secaucus, lost her teaching license. The reason? Somebody had seen her smoking cigarettes after school hours. In communities across the United States, that was a ground for dismissal. So was card-playing, dancing and failure to attend church. Today, teachers can be suspended, and even fired, for what they write on Facebook.

2 Just ask Christine Rubino, the New York City math teacher who may soon be dismissed for posting angry messages about her students. Last June, just before summer vacation began, a Harlem schoolgirl drowned during a field trip to a beach. Ms. Rubino had nothing to do with that incident, but the following afternoon, she typed a quick note on Facebook about a particularly difficult group of Brooklyn students under her responsibility.

3 “After today, I’m thinking the beach is a good trip for my class,” she wrote. “I hate their guts.” One of Ms. Rubino’s Facebook friends then asked: “Wouldn’t you throw a life jacket to little Kwami?” “No, I wouldn’t for a million dollars,” Ms. Rubino replied. As a consequence, Christine Rubino was pulled from the classroom in February and may even lose her job.

4 Ms. Rubino’s online outburst was only the latest example of its kind. In April, a first-grade teacher in Paterson, NJ, was suspended for writing on her Facebook page that she felt like a “warden” overseeing “future criminals.” In February, a high school English teacher in suburban Philadelphia was suspended for a blog entry calling her students “rude, disengaged, lazy whiners.”

5 Such teachers have become minor Internet celebrities, applauded by their fans for exposing students’ insolent manners and desultory work habits. But these defenders have it backward. The truly scary restrictions on teacher speech lie inside the schoolhouse walls, not beyond them. And by supporting teachers’ right to rant against students online, we devalue their status as professionals and actually make it harder to protect real academic freedom in the classroom.

6 All professionals restrict their own speech, after all, reflecting the special purposes and responsibilities of their occupations. A psychologist should not discuss his patients’ darkest secrets on a crowded train, which would violate the trust and confidence they have placed in him.

7 Outside school, teachers must also avoid public language that mocks or demeans the children they instruct. Cruel blog posts about lazy or disobedient students echo the irreverent and offensive culture of cable TV talk shows. And they are unacceptable in a truly democratic dialogue.

*Jonathan Zimmerman, a professor of education and history at New York University, is the author of “Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory”.*

The New York Times

## The Opinion Pages

### Editorial: Teachers Who Vent

#### To the Editor:

I am a teacher, and I do not understand adults writing every mundane or angry thought that crosses their minds, in a public forum, for all to see. What is it about posting this kind of stuff on Facebook? I understand when a 14-year-old does it, but an adult? Teachers who wrote these things, in public, on the Internet, what were you thinking? Sure, teaching can be tiring, frustrating, difficult, discouraging at times, but it is also something amazing and I wouldn't trade it for the world. If you are feeling this much vitriol for your students, you need to get out, and soon – it is not fair to your students for you to be their teacher. They deserve better than you.

LYNNIN

NY, June 4th, 2011

#### To the Editor:

Teachers must be allowed to participate in the public conversations that our society should be having. Including, "Cruel blog posts about lazy or disobedient students." I wonder about whether or not a teacher who posts such remarks should be teaching, but they certainly have the right to say what they like as long as they don't refer to specific children. When I became a teacher, I did not give up my right to free speech. While not in the classroom, teachers should have the right to make stupid, tasteless remarks, just like everybody else.

MICHAEL H.

Alameda, CA, June 4th, 2011

#### To the Editor:

The problem, it seems to me, is not with teachers, but with the illusion of privacy created by Facebook and similar online sites. Just like adolescents, who are shocked to discover that the supposedly private comments they make on the Web are now public knowledge, these teachers have been fooled into thinking they are speaking privately, when in fact, anything posted on Facebook is literally there for the world to see.

ROBERT BEECH

New Haven, CT, June 4th, 2011

(adapted from: <http://www.nytimes.com>)

#### Glossary

*ground*: reason

*to be fired/dismissed*: to lose one's job

*to drown*: to die under water

*warden*: prison guard

*to have it backward*: to be mistaken

*to rant*: to complain angrily

*to vent*: to speak freely

*to trade it for the world*: to exchange it for something

*vitriol*: bitter and frustrated

## Reading Comprehension

The text is divided into two parts: the first is an editorial published in the New York Times and the second is a group of three letters to the editor, commenting on the editorial. Both texts are argumentative, as they present the writers' views on a particular issue.

### Part 1

**1st QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

a) Which paragraph introduces the author's opinion on the issue under discussion? Summarize this opinion in approximately 15 words.

**Answer:**

Paragraph: 5.

Summary: (the candidate must write a short paragraph saying that the author is against teachers making desultory online comments about students' behaviour.)

b) What example from another profession is used by the author to support his view?

**Answer:** Psychologist

**2nd QUESTION:** (1,5 mark)

Avaliador

Revisor

Why does the author use Helen Clark's story to discuss Christine Rubino's case?

**Answer:** Because both were dismissed due to their allegedly inadequate behaviour outside school.

### Part 2

**3rd QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

In the first letter to the Editor, the adjectives *tiring*, *frustrating*, *difficult* and *discouraging* are contrasted with another adjective.

a) What adjective are they contrasted with? **Answer:** Amazing

b) What connecting word is used to establish the contrast? **Answer:** But

**4th QUESTION:** (1,5 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

What is the name of the author of the letter who

a) presents a different aspect of the matter? **Answer:** Robert Beech

b) disagrees with Jonathan Zimmerman's opinion? **Answer:** Michael H.

c) agrees with Jonathan Zimmerman's opinion? **Answer:** Lynnin

**Writing**

**5th QUESTION:** (2,0 marks)

Avaliador

Revisor

Write down a comment to be posted in the New York Times' Opinion Page expressing your views on the issue discussed in the editorial (approximately 50 words).

**Answer:** The candidate is expected to write a comment expressing his own opinion regarding the theme of the editorial (Part 1), presenting arguments to support his/her view.