



Roujo Photopin / Creative Commons

## How to Reform Moroccan Education

**Naima El Yaakoubi**  
Advanced I

As we all know, the educational system is something that our society is based on, especially when it comes to academic education, which is very significant and influential. Hard work, communicating, learning, and studying: these are parts of education that should be linked and connected for students to have meaningful and successful lives.

But, unfortunately, not all the countries in the world are providing an efficient educational system. Morocco is one of those that suffers a lot from its awkward methods and bad structure, which hinder its progress.

So, what are the major issues from which students are suffering? And what can be done to improve our Moroccan educational system?

The first thing is overcrowded classrooms. I wonder how people can concentrate on what the teacher is talking about. For example, if you go to public schools, you find 40 or even 50 students studying in the same classroom. How can

you expect student feedback?

There is another problem that the educational system is facing: policy makers have to focus on the way books are designed and written, and relate the content of these books to real life situations to create self-reliant students.

For instance, a quick look at Moroccan textbooks shows that the contents and most of the pictures are taken from Western cultures. That's to say, our books should have practical parts that can help students sharpen their personalities and gain more experience.

Moreover, since we are living in a world that relies on Information Communication Technology (ICT), our schools and universities should be well-equipped with technological tools, such as projectors, laptops, and cameras. Nowadays, Moroccan students are becoming digital learners, so teachers and students should be trained in ICT in order to facilitate learning and make it much easier.

As far as I'm concerned, the most important thing we need in our educational

'Reform' continued on page 3

## Community Service Club Conference Brings Together All ALCs

**Ibtissam Hamoudi**  
Intermediate 6  
**Salim Ouchiker**  
Intermediate 4

The Second Annual Community Service Club Conference (CSCC), hosted by the American Language Center-Tangier, was held from 17-19 November. All eleven ALCs in Morocco were represented, and the number of attendees increased from last year's conference.

Everyone who attended benefitted from the three days of activities there, made new friends from different cities, gained new ideas for projects, and got to know more about the ALC Community Service Clubs.

The CSCC is a conference at which all ALC Community Service Clubs in Morocco gather to share their projects, and the change that they can bring to their communities, through interactive workshops. Last year was the First Annual CSCC, hosted by the ALC-Fes.

The ALC-Fes Community Service Club is an organization that focuses on the betterment of social conditions in the community. This can be done by improving the conditions of the poor, promoting the welfare of children, helping defeat illiteracy, and protecting the environment.

On the second day of the CSCC, the morning workshop focused on teamwork, so every Community Service Club divided into groups and got together with others from different cities. Each group had to find a solution to successfully achieve a project, not to mention have fun while

'Conference' continued on page 3

## An Interview with: **Si Youness Alaoui Mdaghri**

**Soukaina Loudghiri**  
Intermediate 5

**Student Voice:** *Have you ever lived anywhere else (besides the U.S. and Morocco)?*

**Youness Alaoui Mdaghri:** Yes. For a short period of time in the Middle East, precisely in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. I didn't love it, though.

**SV:** *Tell me about your life as a student. Where did you study?*

**YAM:** Well, I was born and raised in Fes, so my primary, junior high, high school, and university were all in Fes.

**SV:** *What did you study?*

**YAM:** During high school, my major was science.

At the university, I majored in French literature. After that, I joined the teaching center where I graduated with my French teaching degree. Later on, during my stay in the United States, I got my English teaching certificate, known as the CELTA, from Cambridge University.

**SV:** *When did you decide to become a teacher? Why did you choose teaching?*

**YAM:** After graduating with my degree, applying here and there, and sitting for too many exams, I was accepted at the teaching center. So, I went for it, and once we started the program and the training, I found myself and fell in love with teaching.

**SV:** *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

**YAM:** In Morocco, for about ten years. I taught French for four years. Then, off and on in the U.S. for four years.

**SV:** *How long have you been a teacher at the ALC?*

**YAM:** At the ALC, this is my sixth year. Time flies!

**SV:** *How is teaching at the ALC different from teaching at other schools?*

**YAM:** Teaching at the ALC is fun! Certainly, it's different in many ways: the

general environment, class size, quality of teachers and employees, and most importantly, student motivation. Here we are demonstrating what kind of relationship we can have and enjoy. We'd love to see all of our students meld into the lifestyle of the ALC.

**SV:** *What do you enjoy most about teaching?*

sales and management, without forgetting food and beverage. And you know what, the teacher in me has always dominated.

**SV:** *Describe your teaching style in three words.*

**YAM:** Inspiring. Compassionate. Creative.

**SV:** *What qualities do good teachers have?*

**YAM:** Being humanitarian. Putting yourself in your students' shoes. Stepping outside the box. Taking the extra step. Being willing to help someone out there who needs you! If I could draw a picture of a great teacher, it'd be someone with big eyes, big ears, big hands, a big heart, and a small mouth. Let's put it this way [from writer William Arthur Ward], "The mediocre teacher tells. The good one explains. The superior one demonstrates. The great one inspires."

**SV:** *What qualities do good students have?*

**YAM:** Good students are those who are empowered to learn how to teach themselves to shape their future.

**SV:** *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

**YAM:** *Eloquence.* Beauty and persuasion in speech.

**SV:** *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

**YAM:** *Ignorance.*

**SV:** *What word do you overuse?*

**YAM:** *Excellent.* I loved hearing it from my first English teacher. It used to boost my energy for learning and achieving more and more!

**SV:** *What's your motto?*

**YAM:** "Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me to fish, and I eat for a lifetime." I believe that an excellent teacher needs to be able to take a hand, open a mind, and more importantly, open a heart.

Join the conversation.

**Want to interview a teacher?**

Email [alcstudentvoice@gmail.com](mailto:alcstudentvoice@gmail.com).  
Message Student Voice on Facebook.



c/o Si Youness Alaoui Mdaghri • Multnomah Falls, Oregon, U.S.A.

**YAM:** I view teaching as a mission. If you love what you do, or actually, if you do what you love, you'll never get bored. Interacting with students and spreading knowledge is a lot of fun. "If you inspire just one child, your life has been a success."

**SV:** *What has been your most positive experience as a teacher?*

**YAM:** Generally speaking, it's when I encounter a slow learner, or someone who's not motivated at all, and I take the challenge, and make him or her love English. It's such a great feeling. I love it!

**SV:** *What is the role of a teacher in the classroom?*

**YAM:** A true leader and a loving human, with a good sense of humor to inspire students. Once students love you, they connect with you, and this is the backbone of an interactive teaching and learning experience.

**SV:** *If you weren't teaching English, what would you be doing?*

**YAM:** I started my first career as a teacher, and right now, I'm a teacher, even though I have tried many different jobs in between. During my stay in the U.S., I worked in

## The Big Question

The ALC-Fes Journalism Club asks teachers and students a single big question.

### What's the most important technique a teacher should use to be successful in the classroom?

**Yahya Bouhafa**  
ALC-Fes Graduate

**Si Mohammed Fahmi**, English teacher  
“A successful teacher needs all techniques to be successful, whether it's for behavior or the means of teaching. All of these things are important to make a teacher successful.”

**Anass Zaheri**, Beginning 5  
“He should talk about himself when he first comes to the classroom. He should show his personality, but never be angry with his students.”

**Meriam Zahoune**, Advanced 4  
“Patience is the most important thing a teacher should have. The ability to control his class is also important. He should be respectful and friendly at the same time.”

**Naoual Filali**, English teacher

“Presence is important. If you have a class of 44 students, and you can't manage them... A teacher's personality should be strong, but flexible. And, you should love your job.”

**Naima Alami**, English teacher

“The most important technique is mastery of the language and teaching methods; motivating students and keeping them busy all the time; have fun yet keep control of the students at the same time. Constant feedback should encourage and not discourage, so students don't start to feel frustrated. Moving from known to unknown information to build students' confidence. A variety of activities, tasks, and pace; never starting class the same way.”

**Si Mohammed El Hamzaoui**, English teacher

“When I teach, I mostly focus on how my students are reacting. I pay attention to their facial expressions, and when they get brave and start talking, I stop talking.”

**Kole Bowman**, English teacher

“Be flexible. Know your class. Be able to adapt to different classes and students. If you think there's only one technique to be successful in the classroom, you'll have problems.”

**Assia Jabbouri**, Advanced 4

“I think he should use gestures to explain the meaning and describe words. Also, he should give examples to illustrate what he's saying. It helps students to remember.”

Quotes have been edited for length and clarity.

'Reform' continued on [page 1](#)  
system is mutual respect between students and teachers; in this way, discipline will be established and authority will be respected.

To sum up, I hope that the Moroccan educational system will improve as soon as possible. As we say, “where there's a will, there's a way.”

Find your Voice.  
Like Student Voice on Facebook.  
Join the ALC-Fes Journalism Club.  
Send your writings to  
[alcstudentvoice@gmail.com](mailto:alcstudentvoice@gmail.com).

Find the puzzle on [page 4](#)

**Back to School answers:**

10 book	8 teach	9 worn	4 hard knocks	3 old	1 writing	DOWN
6 page	7 nothing	5 throw	2 cover	ACROSS		

'Conference' continued from [page 1](#)  
doing it. Participants also danced to local music and played games that were also based on teamwork.

On the second evening, attendees participated in a scavenger hunt, which was a game where the team that found all the items (things, locations, or subjects), on a given list won.

The last day was for saying goodbye to all the members of the other ALC Community Service Clubs, hoping to meet again next year with many new projects, ideas, and people.

## Congratulations to the Fall 2014 ALC-Fes Merit Scholars

Every ALC-Fes Merit Scholar receives a 100-percent reduction in tuition for one term because of his or her outstanding academic performance.

Beginning 2	Hassan Arjafallah	Intermediate 1	Houda Elbiache	Advanced 1	Yusra Iraamame
Beginning 3	Houda Chadli	Intermediate 2	Fatima Zahrae Sbiridou	Advanced 2	Siham Tarchoun
Beginning 4	Zakia El Manssouri	Intermediate 3	Achraf Belkamsi	Advanced 3	Zakia Errabih
Beginning 5	Youness Daidi	Intermediate 4	Ghita El Faiz Chaoui	Advanced 4	Assia Jabbouri
Beginning 6	Ismail Benkirane	Intermediate 5	Boutaina Tamsouri	Advanced 5	Sara Yousfi
Beginning 7	Zineb Lazraq	Intermediate 6	Ghita Benboubker	Advanced 6	Nacer Bahaj

## I Just Want to Say

**M'hammd EI'Brahmi**  
Intermediate 4

Well, you were the reason  
I got up to face every day.  
You were everything for me.  
We used to fight a lot, and cry,  
We used to laugh and play,  
We spent a lot of time together,  
So you promised we'd stay forever.  
You were the one that I loved,  
You were the one that I had.

Now, everything has changed.  
You are happy with your new life,  
You forgot me, and our past,  
And it seems you feel amazing pride.  
For that, I'm telling you good-bye.  
But, I just want to say,  
There are plenty of fish in the sea.

## Luck

**Kaoutar Oubdil**  
Beginning 4

You pass through my memory,  
My heart still knocks.  
Your smile, which covers the whole book,  
That book that we wrote, both,  
In which we were the protagonists.  
Our time was stable,  
Our place was our hearts,  
And luck was the only protagonist.  
He was the only one able,  
To make us finish,  
To make our love vanish.  
Even though you are far, we both suffer.  
But who will we blame,  
The distance or the luck.

### FIND YOUR VOICE.

Student Voice accepts submissions  
from ALC, ALIF, and university students.

Submit your news items, opinions, essays,  
short fiction, poetry, photos, and drawings  
to [alcstudentvoice@gmail.com](mailto:alcstudentvoice@gmail.com).

Find Student Voice on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/ALCStudentVoice](http://www.facebook.com/ALCStudentVoice).

## Christmas in the United States

**Ouafae Bakkar**  
Intermediate 4

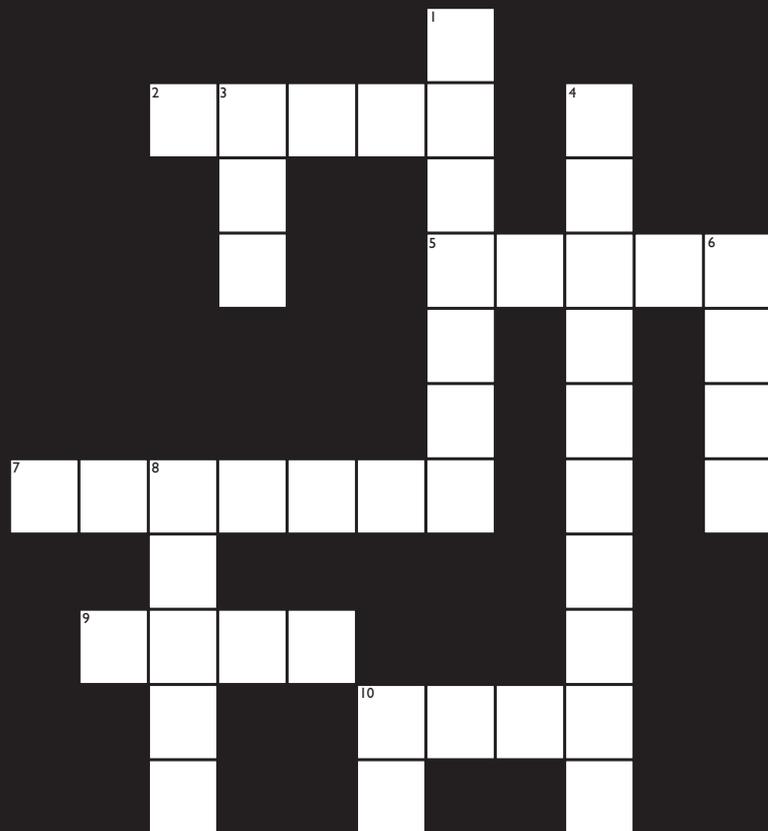
Many people in the United States  
celebrate Christmas on 25 December.  
People celebrate Christmas in many ways  
in the days, and even the weeks, before  
Christmas Day.

Many people decorate their homes  
and yards with lights, Christmas trees, and  
much more. People prepare a special meal,  
often consisting of turkey, and a lot of other  
festive foods, for family and friends.

They also exchange gifts with family  
and friends. Children, in particular, receive  
a lot of gifts from their parents, other  
relatives, and the mythical figure, Santa  
Claus. A lot of plays and songs have an  
aspect of Christmas as their theme.

Government offices, businesses,  
and schools are closed, almost without  
exception. Many people travel to visit  
relatives. Public life closes down almost  
completely.

## Back to School



### ACROSS

- 2 "You can't judge a book by its \_\_\_\_\_."  
is a proverb about appearance and character.  
5 'To \_\_\_\_\_ the book at (someone)' means  
to punish her harshly.  
7 We can describe a not-so-great experience  
as '\_\_\_\_\_ to write home about.'  
9 When you 'take a \_\_\_\_\_ out of  
(another person's) book,' you act like him.  
10 When you understand someone's thoughts,  
you can 'read (that person) like a \_\_\_\_\_.'

Find the answers on page 3.

### DOWN

- 1 When something bad is evidently going to  
occur, we say, 'the \_\_\_\_\_ is on the wall.'  
3 To say that a person is '\_\_\_\_\_ school'  
is a positive way of saying that he is traditional.  
4 If you graduated from the 'school of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_', you had painful experiences that  
taught you how to live better. (two words)  
6 Someone who loves reading is sometimes  
called a 'book\_\_\_\_\_'.  
8 To punish someone so they won't do wrong  
again is to '\_\_\_\_\_ (that person) a lesson.'  
10 To do something strictly by the rules is to  
do it '\_\_\_\_\_ the book.'