
Working Plan:

1. **Getting acquainted (+ *your targets*)**
2. **A few words about online format**
3. **Vocabulary list and expressions ~ 20 mins**
4. **A movie: time to watch! ~ 10 mins + 1 bonus**
5. **Discussion: *individual input / opinion, group work + rating + feedback***

ALTERNATIVE MATH

(2017, USA)

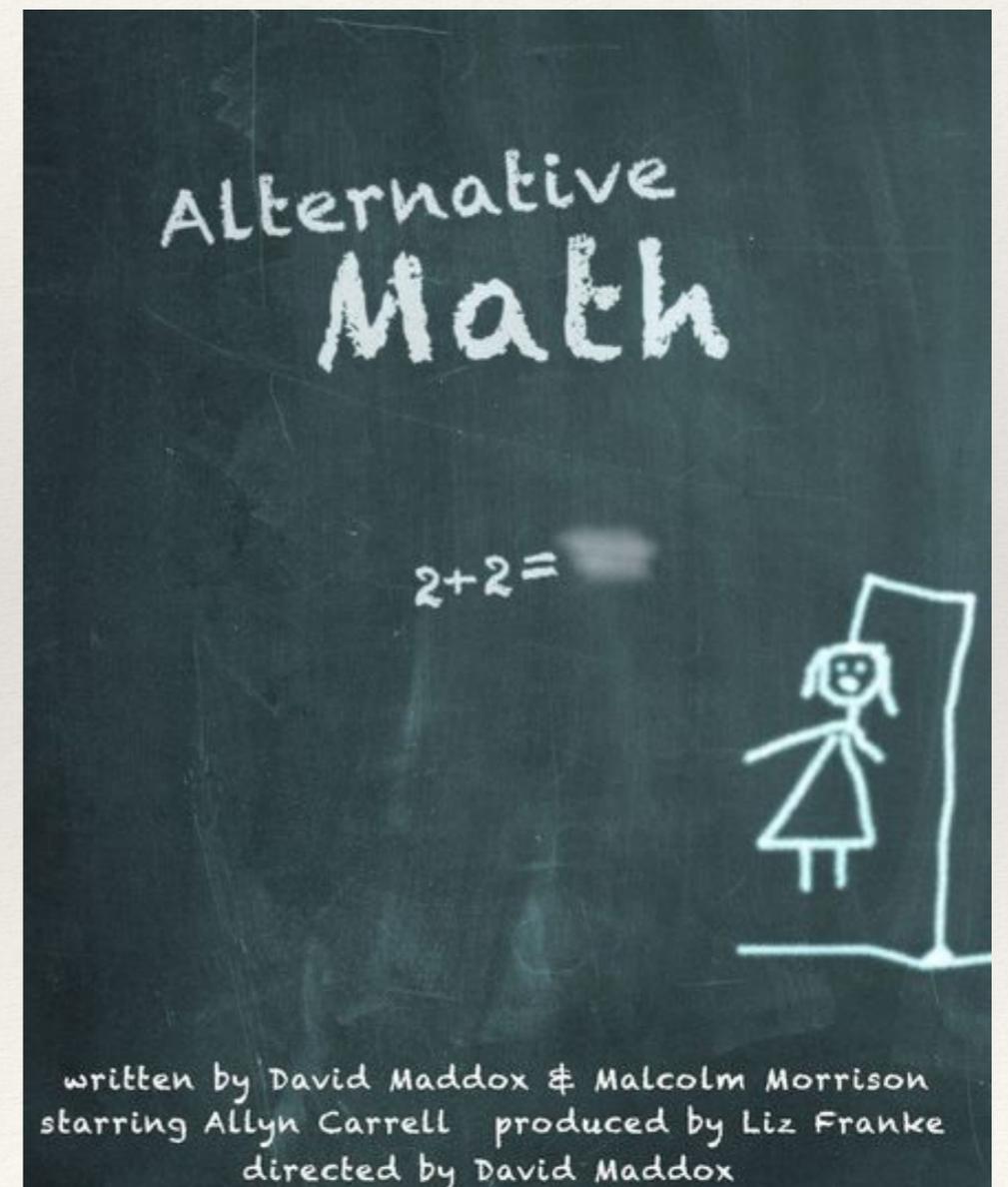
A well meaning math teacher finds herself trumped by a post-fact America.

Director: David Maddox

Writers: David Maddox, Malcolm Morrison

Stars: Allyn Carrell, Hope Whitaker,
Mykle McCoslin

7.3



Facts About A Short Movie:

- *ALTERNATIVE MATH*, a short film from the minds of **David Maddox and Malcolm Morrison**, tells the story of an elementary school math teacher who is challenged by parents, the principal, and even the mayor, when she tells a student that “ $2+2=4$ ”.
- “This is a hilarious film with a fantastic message and a reminder that we sometimes put immense (and often unjustified) pressure on our teachers....
- With a cast headed by the massively talented **Allyn Carrell**, *Alternative Math* is extremely well cast. Nobody, of course, can exceed the performance given by Carrell, who portrays her role with Oscar-worthy perfection as the teacher.
- *Alternative Math* is directed by **David Maddox**. He coordinates beautiful (yet understated) cinematography and features a catchy score and an easy-to-follow timeline. The short has been featured at dozens of film festivals from Sydney to Miami and everywhere in between, it’s not surprising, as the film delivers on multiple levels....

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary (1)

Symbol	Words Used
+	<u>Addition</u> , Add, Sum, Plus, Increase, Total
-	<u>Subtraction</u> , Subtract, Minus, Less, Difference, Decrease, Take Away, Deduct
×	<u>Multiplication</u> , Multiply, Product, By, Times, Lots Of
÷	<u>Division</u> , Divide, Quotient, Goes Into, How Many Times

- 1) You are having some trouble with addition - *do you know?*
- 2) That's stupid - *can you find the synonyms?*
- 3) It's ok for kids to get frustrated - *can you explain?*
- 4) So-called test of yours - *what does it mean?*

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary(2)

5) What two plus two equals - the same in amount, number, or size E.g. *One litre is equal to 1.76 imperial pints*

6) So, you've got it all figured out, don't you? - to understand or solve smth; figure out how / why / what, etc. E.g. *If they know the cause of the problem, they might be able to figure out how to prevent it happening again. ALSO figure out = to calculate an amount E.g. It is difficult to access funding before the elements of an outline business plan have been figured out.*

7) You smart ass little tramp - someone who is always trying to seem more intelligent than other people in a way that is annoying E.g. *I don't want some smart-ass from the city telling me how to manage my farm.*

Tramp - a person with no home, job, or money who travels around and asks for money from other people

8) Some kind of retard? - a stupid or mentally slow person E.g. *I'm not playing with him, he's a total retard.*

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary(3)

9) Danny is a free thinker – *can you explain?*

10) I understand you had an issue yesterday – *what is “issue” in this case?*

11) Get out of hand – *please find the equivalents*

12) Parents don't want you ramming your biased views down their kid's throats – Ram down = beat/ strike into; push with force.

Biased = showing an unreasonable like or dislike for a person based on personal opinions *E.g. The newspapers gave a very biased report of the meeting. I think she's beautiful but then I'm biased since she's my daughter.*

13) Stop undermining our kids confidence - to make someone less confident less powerful, or less likely to succeed, or to make smth weaker, often gradually *E.g. The president has accused two cabinet members of working secretly to undermine his position/him. Criticism just undermines their confidence.*

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary(4)

14) I honestly think this will all **blow over** – *phrasal verb*: When an argument blows over, it becomes gradually less important until it ends and is forgotten **E.g.** *I thought that after a few days the argument would blow over.*

15) They're **suing** - to take legal action against a person or organization, esp. by making a legal claim for money because of some harm that they have caused you **E.g.** *He was so furious about the accusations in the letter that he threatened to sue. She is suing her husband for (= in order to get a) divorce.*

16) Emotional distress to a **minor** - someone who is too young to have the legal responsibilities of an adult **E.g.** *He was accused of having sex with a minor.*

17) When you became aware of this **fiasco** and the events leading up to **the riot** - an occasion when a large number of people behave in a noisy, violent, and uncontrolled way in public, often as a protest **E.g.** *Inner-city riots erupted when a local man was shot by police*

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary(5)

18) We need you to recant that – to announce in public that your past beliefs or statements were wrong and that you no longer agree with them
E.g. After a year spent in solitary confinement, he publicly recanted (his views).

19) We can't let them bully us - someone who hurts or frightens someone else, often over a period of time, and often forcing them to do smth that they do not want to do
E.g. You're just a big bully! Teachers usually know who the bullies are in a class.

20) When the media gets wind of this – *idiom*: to hear a piece of information that someone else was trying to keep secret
E.g. I don't want my colleagues to get wind of the fact that I'm leaving.

21) Suspending. While you reconsider your extremist views –

Suspending - to stop smth from being active, either temporarily or permanently
E.g. The ferry service has been suspended for the day because of bad weather.

ALTERNATIVE MATH / Vocabulary(5)

21) This teacher, this liberal elitist – someone who believes that some things should be controlled or owned only by the richest or best educated people

E.g. *They were elitists who had a contempt for popular politics.*

22) Why don't you teach in Commie France? - **Do you know?**

23) We don't want you radicalizing our students any more - to make someone become more radical (= extreme) in their political or religious beliefs

E.g. *The movie has clearly radicalized some voters. The bomber was thought to have been radicalized while in prison.*

24) What about academic integrity? - the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles that you refuse to change E.g. *No one doubted that the president was a man of the highest integrity.*

ALSO: sb's artistic, professional, etc. integrity approving:

someone's high artistic standards or standards of doing their job, and that person's determination not to lower those standards

The movie with subtitles:

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=Zh3Yz3PiXZw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zh3Yz3PiXZw)

Suggested topics to discuss:

1) Do you know that if $2+2=22$, then "logically" $2000+2000= \dots$?

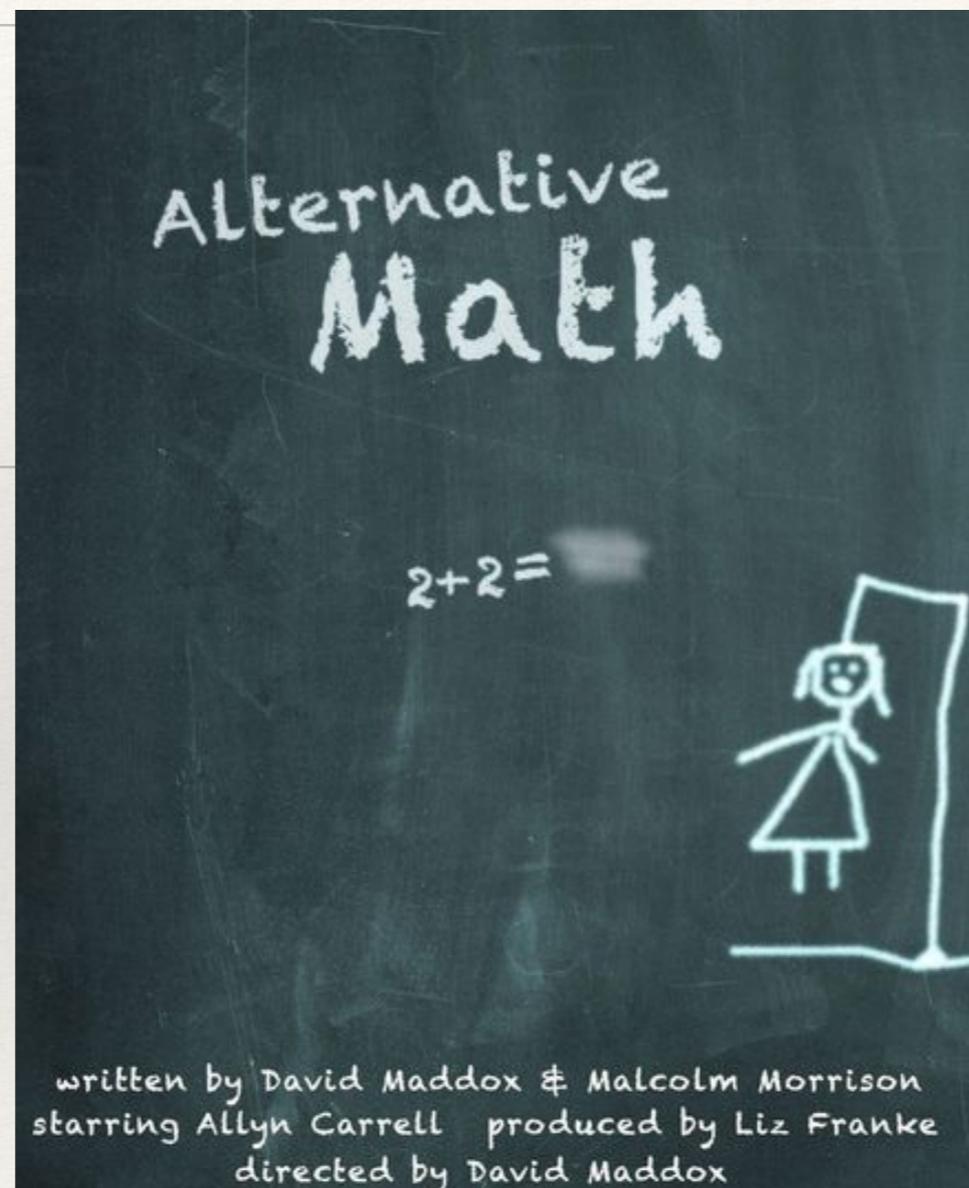
20002000

2) "Students count. Teachers divide" – what does it mean, can you explain this motto?

3) Do you have any academic integrity/ moral principles that you won't change? Give reasons.

4) Do you find the movie realistic in any way? What kind of social problems does it raise?

Alternative Math



Thanks for your contribution!

BONUS: The Expert. IT Support

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=ZOzzRlc_qho](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOzzRlc_qho)