

Giving a Gift Certificate to Another Class

One of the neat things about Kiva is that it is possible to give a gift certificate to another person. The person who receives your Kiva gift is then able to get the good feelings that come from helping someone in the developing world. Better yet, they get those good feelings over and over again each time their loan is paid back.

One of our options, then, could be to give a Kiva gift certificate to another class of students. By doing so, we might be introducing a teacher and a room full of thirty kids just like you to a really neat service project that they can get involved in and learn from over time.

This could be powerful, couldn't it? We'd basically be multiplying our power by finding other kids to help—and half the battle is just finding out that Kiva exists. After all, did you know what Kiva was before the year started? Let's think this through.

Advantages of Gift Certificates	Disadvantages of Gift Certificates
Kiva gift certificates can introduce more students to Kiva while they are young. That means they're likely to keep loaning throughout their lives.	We don't control where our loan money goes. If sister schools decide to loan to parts of the world that we don't study—or businesses we don't agree with—we cannot stop them.
Gift certificates can introduce more teachers to Kiva—and to the idea of "Do Something Funny for Money" day. That means they're likely to get students involved throughout their entire careers.	We don't control how involved our sister schools would become. They might choose not to do anything with the gift certificates we donate, or they might forget to reloan money over time. We've got to put faith into others and trust that they'll do the right thing with <i>our</i> money.
We can follow the impact of our loans by setting up a Kiva Team—a group of people that track their loans together. Our Kiva Team is called _____, and any school that we give a gift certificate to will be asked to join our team.	We might not ever find out how our money was used. Sister schools might not sign up for our Kiva Team—or might forget to tie new loans to our team.
Gift certificates allow students in other classes to study life in parts of the world that they may never have explored before.	Giving gift certificates limits the number of people that we can help. While it's nice to see other kids and classes get involved, gift certificates limit our own involvement.

Working in your small group, consider the following questions.

Can you think of any other advantages or disadvantages of using our Kiva money to give a gift certificate to another class?

Overall, do you think the advantages of giving a Kiva gift certificate outweigh the disadvantages? Why?

What do you like the best about giving a Kiva gift certificate? What do you like the least?