How To Teach Children To Hate Mathematics

Children generally do not hate mathematics when they start school. This is a trait, which they acquire as a part of their elementary school training. The feat of loathing mathematics can generally be accomplished if the teacher will use one or more of the following procedures.

1. Assign the same work to everyone in the class.
   This technique is effective with about two thirds of the class. The bottom third of the class will become frustrated from trying to do the impossible while the top third will hate the boredom.
   WARNING: This MAY NOT be effective with about the middle 1/3 of the students.
   In time, the drudgery and monotony is bound to get to them.
3. Assign written work everyday.
   Before long just the word “mathematics” will remove every smile in the room.
4. Be sure that each student has plenty of homework.
   This is especially important over weekends and vacation periods.
5. Never correlate mathematics with life situations.
   A student might find it useful and get to enjoy math.
6. Insist there is ONLY one correct way to solve each problem.
   This is very important as some creative student might look for different ways to solve a problem. He could even grow to like math.
7. Assign mathematics as a punishment for misbehavior.
   The association works wonders. Soon math and punishment will take on the same meaning.
8. Be sure that ALL students complete ALL the review work in front of the textbook.
   This ought to last until Thanksgiving or Christmas, and is certain to kill off the interest of most students.
9. Use long drill type assignments with many examples of the SAME type problem.
   (For example: 30 long column addition problems.)
   This type of assignment requires little teacher time and keeps the student occupied for a long time. The majority of the pupils are sure to dislike it.
10. Always insist that papers are prepared in a certain way.
    Name, date, page number, etc., must each be placed in a specific spot. If a student fails to follow this procedure, tear up his paper and let him start over again. Instant humiliation and despair are almost guaranteed.
11. Lastly, insist that EVERY problem worked incorrectly be reworked until it is correct.
    This procedure is most effective in promoting distaste for math and if followed very carefully, the student may even learn to detest his teacher as well!