**The Important Aspects of Successful Education**

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Teachers build the foundation of our school system.  They provide the knowledge as well as the authority for our future generation of U.S. citizens.  Teachers should perform according to the given standards of the United States and provide equal education for all students regardless of their culture.  Teachers are not respected as much by others in the nation for some people view them as lower in the level in the economy.  They are lower on the pay scale and therefore some question how the teachers teach.  A teacher is hired to educate the students and the parents expect the teachers to shape the minds of these students.  Unions were created so teachers can uniformly play a role in their destiny.  These unions are very beneficial to the teachers for they provide inclusion for the entire staff.  Teachers are the nurturers and experts when it comes to childcare and knowledge.  They are hired to educate the future generation of Americans and should perform according to the standards the United States has put into place.

A well known standard, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), places a lot of responsibility on the teachers for it requires that all students, no matter their ability or social standings, perform at a standard level.  This requires a good amount of determination and hard work for the teachers for they are constantly trying to get their students to this level.  However, the standard also causes many teachers to only teach for the given tests.  As a result the school as a whole may receive more funding from the government, but the students are not truly learning.  A good teacher is one who can reach these standards while still instructing students how to learn and opening their minds to new thoughts.  An example of an effective teacher is Maxine Greene who’s ideas and beliefs are followed by many today.  Greene believed in creative learning and did not believe in teaching to the test at all.  She believes that a good teacher is someone who can apply new beliefs discovered within the classroom in order to teach students to view their lives not only through their own eyes, but the eyes of another as well.  Greene believes in taking a vantage viewpoint so everyone is equal and therefore everyone is deserves to earn an education.  Teachers should apply Maxine Greene’s opinion within their classroom, while still adhering to the rules provided by the government.

James Bryant Conant, the developer of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), would argue that students should be challenged and favored the high achieving students.  Although it is important for the high achievers to be encouraged and challenged, it is also important for the other students to be assisted as well.  Conant would not agree with the idea of NCLB and, instead would argue that teachers should be classified and ranked based on their teaching ability.  Conant believed strongly that it was important to award the high achieving students and believed that in developing the SAT it gave the nation a way to reasonably rant the students and award scholarships to the students who exceeded expectations.  Sonia Nieto, a promoter of multicultural and bilingual education believed that education should be focused on culturally and linguistically diverse students.  Teachers, according to Nieto, should look inward at themselves and make connections as teachers.  In examining what they were doing wrong and changing the learning environment so that all students could be successful Nieto hoped to make education more possible for all students regardless of their race or language.

Schools provide a building for learning to take place within.  School stands as an institution and is funded by our taxpayers.  Taxes provide the backbone for the building of new schools and allows for students to become educated.  This funding is necessary for the schools to run.  Our society tends to believe that schools should be a safe place for learning to take place.  They should provide a comfortable atmosphere and a local, nurturing environment.  In providing these things schools become an inviting place for teachers to work as well as a suitable place for students to learn.  Schooling also provides a social standard for students and the learning that takes place within the building is not simply dates and facts, but instead how to interact with others, the different viewpoints of classmates and the diversity of culture.  These skills are very important for students to learn and social understanding is a crucial dimension of education.  A meeting place is necessary for jobs to be completed.  Without the white house or pentagon, the government of the United States would not be as successful.  Schools provide a similar organization to our governmental buildings.  They provide a physical building where learning is possible.  Learning is possible anywhere, however it is most effective within a school building.

Students are our future of America.   The students of our classrooms are the next generation of inventors, explorers, doctors, and future educators.  They have the potential to make a true difference here on Earth.  These students, therefore, are expected to work their hardest and by working hard they will hopefully become successful.  Society expects students to keep an open mind and to learn the information provided in order to produce new ideas and thoughts in the future.  The students are the “learners” of the school and process the information presented to them.  They are the ones being educated and are expected to learn not only the information, but also the social beliefs that are provided to the students once within the classroom.  They should bring their own experiences within the classroom and share them in order to grow and better understand the world around them.  Arthur Jensen, a believer in science as a basis to judge learning potential, argued that American intelligence is based on genetics.  Jensen believed that students should want to express themselves and that this expression is beneficial.  Genetics in general is what, according to Jensen, predicted the potential of the student.  Students in the end therefore are not in control of their future, for it all rests in their genetic make-up.

The classroom is a complicated place to be.  Students tend to have a short attention span and therefore are restless, talkative, and tend to lack motivation for the tasks at hand.  Even with the limited attention of the students, teachers are still expected to maintain order within the classroom.  The schools are meant to run smoothly with the control of the classrooms under the teacher.  Principals are held responsible for the entire school to run efficiently.  In order to keep control within the classroom students are expected to respect their teachers and the reverse is expected as well.  Classrooms are controlled when these standards can be met, for when students and teachers have a mutual respect for each other neither wants to anger or disrespect the other.  When the classroom is in complete control a school functions with a controlled atmosphere and allows for education to occur.  Within the classrooms and the school as a whole classroom management is necessary in order for education to occur.  Our country as a whole functions by adhering to rules and laws written to keep peace.  Our school system is very much the same in the sense that rules are created within the school and more within the classroom.  It is similar to the hierarchy of the nation and the individual states of America.  The federal government has the ultimate and final say in the laws that govern the country; however, the states also have their own laws which allow for a more individualistic choice.  Classrooms tend to have similar “laws” in place for the same reason, to keep peace.  When these standards are given, students understand what they are permitted to do and the boundaries drawn.  This helps them learn to adhere to rules and authority for in the world outside of school rules are also required to keep peace.  Learning this valuable lesson within school helps create a better behaved person and is necessary in order to be successful beyond grade school.  With good management a controlled atmosphere is created, education is possible, and the classrooms and school as a whole is able to function effectively.  Marian Wright Edelman would argue that schooling should be individualized for each student for every child learns at a different level and to a different ability.  She believes in protecting children who may be disabled, homeless, abused, or neglected.  She believed that schooling should provide an equal opportunity for students to learn a second language.  Schools should look at how students feel and prevent elite teachers from only working together.  In doing this Edelman would open schooling to different styles so the students can live up to the potential.

Community also plays an important role in the education system.  Events occurring within the community play a role in the students’ lives, and therefore tend to be expressed and discussed in class.  Schooling as a whole, although taking place within the classroom, is applied within the community.  Students are able to apply what they learned at events and elections.  The community is the voting population.  As stated previously, without the support of taxpaying dollars, school systems could not function.  Members are elected to positions within the state and school district.  Those elected determine the changes that will be made within the schools and play a crucial role in education.  Schools depend on these taxpayers and their supportive votes and without the community’s support, education, as it stands today, would not be possible.  It is believed by some that the community provides a support group for the students.  The community consists of not only the population of working people in the area, but the students, parents and teachers alike.  As a result, some people argue that parents are expected to assist children with their schoolwork.  Instead, however, learning should solely exist within the classroom, and the community should not provide the deciding factor as to whether or not a child is successful.  A good teacher is able to get the children excited about school and want to learn the material without the needed support of the community.  They should be able to excite the students and prompt their interest in learning.  However, community does play a role in the education of students.  For example, on the Native American reservations the beliefs of the tribes are brought within the classroom and used to help the students better understand the given subject.  These views and beliefs of the area therefore have an effect on learning and bring the community to a closer proximity to schools.