

I asked... “What is the Purpose...”

I asked... “What is the purpose of your job in education? I really wanted to know.

The teacher told me, “Just survive the challenge of the day!”
The principal told me, “Just survive the pressure of the central office!”
The central office told me, “Survive the mandates of the state!”
And the state said, “Survive to regs of the fed!”

I collected my research, grabbed some coffee, and tried to decipher my findings. To be or not to be a “Manager of Compliance!” Is this the purpose of education? I continued to ask my discovery team of me, myself, and I....

What about learning for the joy of discovery?
What about reaching a personal goal?
What about accomplishing a social task?
What about sharing the golden rule?

And then it happened! The light at the end of the hallway broke open the doors of restriction, rolled up the window blinds of compliance, and sent a code to follow that made perfect sense for moving forward. The code was this:

“AIO!” “AIO!” “AIO!”

Adapt, Improve, Overcome.

Sounds like a United States Marine Acronym. Almost to the letter, however, there is a twist. Adapting, Improvising, Overcoming is nothing more than learning how to win while complying with the mode of operation applied by the social hierarchy, during the time of participation. In other words, “do what you have to do; to do what you want to do!”

It is not the Pythagorean Theorem that will feed your face but the ability to follow the math instructions, adapt to the math circumstances, improvise the math solutions, and provide positive productive math returns on the efforts you provide. Therefore, developing the AIO learning process in everyone regardless of age or position, is the purpose of education. It is knowing how to adapt in your environment, to improvise in your environment, to overcome in your environment... whatever that environment may be.

There is a time for self-motivation and there is a time for democratic decisions.
There is a time to act, and a time let go.
There is a time to follow orders and a time to disobey.
There is a time to create and a time to follow standard.
There is time to do the job as ordered and a time to find another way.

Everyone is different and yet everyone is the same in this one simple purpose. The ability to AIO is a fundamental application of critical thinking, of natural being, and is the defining characteristic of one who knows how to respect self, others, and the process.

The Golden Rule has always been the beacon of a schoolhouse, a workhouse, a family house, and an outhouse. Today, we can categorically apply the Golden Rule to a productive social purpose of education. The child, student, teacher, leader, alumnus who studies, observes, creates, tests, fails, succeeds, explores, follows directions, implements, competes, shares.....does best when the Process of AIO is never at rest.

This is the Purpose of Education.



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