**The Changing Role of the Teacher**

* Content Stills Matter and is important- No matter what the newest educational fads are saying. A student needs to have a foundation in content matter in order to build. However that being said we need to expand what we do in the class room.

Everything they might wish to learn is freely available on the Internet. Even MIT provides free and open access to all lectures online. What, then, is our role?

1. Teach thinking

**Arthur Costa’s Levels**

Arthur Costa’s Model of Intellectual Functioning in Three Levels

from *Developing Minds: A Resource Book for Teaching Thinking*

**Level 1: defining** Ex. What is the definition of "lunar eclipse"? (definition)

**describing**

**identifying** Ex. Which states seceded from the Union to form the

Confederacy? (identification)

**listing** Ex. How can we express the equation 2x(4 -5y) + 3y = 26

in 3 ways? (list)

**naming**

**observing**

**reciting** Ex. How does "The Road Not Taken" (Frost) begin?

(reciting)

**scanning**

**Level 2: analyzing** Ex. In "Native Son," how does Bigger Thomas' violence

against his gang members reveal a deeply-rooted

insecurity & fear of people? (analysis)

**comparing**

**contrasting** Ex. In "The Bet" (Chekov) how do the lawyer & the

banker differ in their attitudes toward capital

punishment? (contrast)

**grouping**

**inferring** Ex. If the moon is full August 17, July 18, and June 19,

when will it be full in April? (inference)

**sequencing**

**synthesizing** Ex. How does the term "manifest destiny" capture the

essence of Western expansion in the United States?

(synthesis)

**Level 3: applying** Ex. Using the principle of communicative property, how

can we find out the number of apple trees in an

orchard having 15 rows, 5 trees in each row?

(application of a principle)

**a principle**

**evaluating**

**hypothesizing**

**imagining**

**judging** Ex. Which of the characters in "Great Expectations"

suffered the most? (judgment)

**predicting**

**speculating** Ex. In "The Catcher in the Rye," how might Phoebe,

years later, describe Holden to her children?

(speculation)

* Instead of a multiple-choice question that asks what the theme of a story is have the students describe how that theme applies to real life.
* Instead of a multiple-choice question about a particular date in history, have the students find a similar current event and relate it to past events.
* Instead of a multiple-choice question to answer an equation about the area of a figure, have the student apply that equation to a local architectural structure and describe why knowing its dimensions is important.

1. Help them learn to think critically about the information they are encountering.
2. Teach them to check the credentials of media producers to determine the validity of the information they are viewing.
3. Help them recognize the impact and consequences of decisions in this rapidly changing world.
4. Help them articulate ideas fluently so they can be effective participants in this global conversation.

* Students need to understand that others may not share their own perspective on an issue…This does not mean that they should necessarily abandoned their perspective for the sake of another. But need to understand that another perspective does not necessarily makes that individual a worst person or that their perspective is wrong.
* Students need to be able to communicate verbally and nonverbally with diverse audiences characterized by differenced is culture, region, faith, and socioeconomic status.
* Students should feel empowered to make a difference in it. They should be able to understand where and how they might be able to have an impact in their community and in the world and engage in service projects responsibly.

1. Help them learn to use modern forms of communication – search engines, databases, blogs, videos, Websites, social media, Web 2.0 and the rapidly evolving 3.0. Incorporate them into your curriculum

Examples:

* Collaborate
* Group projects that uses technology- video, animation, etc…
* Connect through writing:
* Have your students write and moderate a discussion thread online using a secure blogging program like [www.kidblog.org](http://www.kidblog.org). Pick a topic that can be sustained so that the conversation goes on long after the school bell rings. Students can provide links in their text so they can share further research on the topic The blog can be assessed as a writing piece as well as their ability to comment and give advice.
* Persuade
* Have students research a local social cause, create a Facebook fan page to promote its importance, and do an oral presentation for the school board or community

1. Ask probing questions that require them to think deeply about important ideas and develop a personal critical stance.
2. Help them recognize bias, to see how social media is structured to promote certain behaviors, to recognize when and how they are being manipulated.
3. Help them develop strategies for learning.
4. Provide them with opportunities to explore ideas through the arts in order to create meaning and understanding.
5. Ensure that they have a strong foundation in math, science and technology as these skills are fundamental to our evolving world.
6. Provide them with opportunities to develop collaborative skills.
7. Help them understand that when they are online, they are building a public profile.
8. Encourage flexibility, creativity, resourcefulness and self-direction so that can they can continually adapt to a rapidly changing world.
9. Call home when the work is not being done, to identify students who are struggling and provide them with support.

* Help students become college and career ready by teaching them how to apply what they are learning in school to the practical and intellectual tasks in their everyday lives.

Taking those first steps……

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Moving ahead…..

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Home work

* Why are you giving the homework? Not just for home work sake-Busy work
* Have HW for your unit available the first day of the new unit so student can have the option of doing the homework when it fits their schedule.

Helpful Web Sites

* Education World [www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com)