

Lesson Plan

November 3, 2017

THAT'S NOT FAIR! WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS!

For the first time all semester, I have finally caught the attention of some of you. There are students in the classroom that do not know the name of the website, perhaps have not seen the PowerPoint. I named the PowerPoint, "Everything you need to know" for a reason: it contains the entire course. Particularly though, these days, the Lesson Plans will be extremely beneficial because this entire course, your entire life's journey is based on one thing and one thing only: Your mind. Do you know what goes on inside your own mind? Do you pay attention to yourself?

Do you want to pass this course?

You say, "Yes."

And you know you must write papers in order to pass this course?

You say, "Yes,"

I say No

You do not know yet that you must write the papers, sometimes we just know. There are students in this room that just knew from the start they were going to write all one hundred pages and write them beautifully and have so ever since. They paid attention to their minds. Somewhere inside them, they said yes, and they followed through with actions. Somewhere inside you. You said yes, (maybe it sounded like, "I gotta pass this course!"), but you have not taken actions to do so. You are not paying attention to your own mind.

Sometimes paying attention to my mind is easy. Whenever I hear, "Let's eat!" I follow like a dog. Whenever she smiles at me, my mind sends a warm glow through my entire body. Whenever somehow I see fear or sorrow in another's eyes, something takes hold of my attention and really keeps me there during such moments. Whenever a teacher begins to talk, I pick up my phone.

Aha! You can pay attention to your mind. You do it beautifully all through the day. You have gotten to be sixteen years old with likely pretty good grades or at least passing. You have learned and you have done well.

You are here.

However, what I explained yesterday kicks in and now

We are here.

At fifteen, sixteen, seventeen you are beginning to pop your heads into a bigger world a little more each day and that world is a cosmological Internet and the better you tap into that the greater your world.

And until we begin inserting microchips into our brains or taking SmartPills or developing skills for mental telepathy, language will be the river our minds swim in.

So I can't let you go out into the river if you can't swim. Ya gotta show me the writing. Ya gotta show me the effort.

But we've been through that.

Listen. You begin writing with your feet. I was not one to be enthused about writing something I had to write about if I didn't particularly care for the topic. It is the same pattern. I looked at the subject and said to myself, "This is boring." Another student might have looked at the topic and said, "Oh, boy!"

So what happens? I, who said the subject was boring, reluctantly wrote a boring paper just to pass the course. That Oh Boy kid got a scholarship to Columbia University.

And that is another reason this course is designed this way. You are given many subjects to write about. Of the writing prompts given, you do not have to do them all, even if you were striving for a 5.0. I am offering projects as well, but you must earn your way to a project. You must earn your way through those first sixty pages, then a project will be accepted.

And now, in many cases, that I have brought "Mom" into the picture, there is a new respect for the course. That is fear. I have gotten your attention through fear. Bad things will happen if you sit down with "Mom" and she sees your portfolio, which should be a well laid-out manuscript by that point. "Mom" will see examples of other students work. "Mom" will wonder why her child couldn't do something like that. Why did "Mom's" child write so few pages when there was all this time in class? And for many of "Mom's" children, there is time afterwards as well.

Then what?

So now I see three options for those who have been on their phones and little else for the past two and a half months:

1. You can give up and kick back. "Ain't no use in trying to catch up now. I'll just take night school. This ain't worth it."
2. You can continue to look for a way around the system. Maybe plead that you are a special case. Students have shared stories of difficult circumstances and we have worked together in managing their own writings.
3. You can finally agree to work with that part of you that said, "Yes."

And as you see the proprietor over there apparently doing nothing, he might actually be working with other students on their portfolios. The proprietor welcomes all questions.

Writing prompt # 68

Copy and paste the following link to watch a Ted Talk video on what it takes to succeed in most all areas of life, especially as a student before you have developed certain necessary skills; something carries those achievers forward. What is it? Is it brains? Beauty? Money? Luck?

Watch the video and let us know what you think. What is the speaker's point? What is her evidence to support her point? Do you agree or disagree with her? Why or why not? What evidence do you have to support your position?

<https://ed.ted.com/on/1xgK6Cat>