



Let's Go to the Movies and Learn about Teaching!

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Introduction

Major motion pictures can entertain us, frighten us, make us laugh and even cry, but they can also offer a glimpse into the realities and false impressions of teaching. Join us as we sit back, relax, and enjoy the show offered by some great movie star teacher as we examine teaching styles, stereotypes, hurdles and triumphs in the classroom through some of the biggest blockbuster hits.

Icebreaker Discussion Points

What's your favorite movie that has some kind of "teaching" theme or moment in it?

How would you define your role as a teacher in a SINGLE word?

If you were serving on a "Teacher of the Year" award committee, what kinds of actions that you saw teachers taking would make you want to give them an award?

Formal Discussion Points

Discussion, sequenced with movie clips, about what the best teachers do, and what makes them effective at what they do, centers around the following points:

TEN TRAITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

By Elaine K. McEwan

1. Mission-driven and Passionate
2. Positive and Real
3. A Teacher-leader
4. With-it-Ness
5. Style
6. Motivational Expertise
7. Instructional Effectiveness
8. Book Learning
9. Street Smarts
10. A Mental Life

Additional Discussion Points from Movie Clips:

Teaching Styles

Stereotypes associated with the teaching profession

Obstacles teachers must face in the classroom

Choices that teachers have to make in their position

WHAT THE BEST COLLEGE TEACHERS DO: AN ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS

By L. Dee Fink

The Three Areas of “Additional Analysis:”

Attitudes & Perspectives

1. Intense Desire to Continue Learning
2. Positive Attitudes Towards Students
3. Used Teacher Evaluations to Improve
4. Viewed Their Teaching as Part of a Larger Context

Decisions About Course Design

1. Identified Big Questions and Stories
2. Fully Used the First Day of the Course
3. Formulated Good Learning Goals
4. Used Good Learning Activities
5. Responded to Student Characteristics
6. Used Good Assessment Activities
7. Created a High Level of Course Integration

Their Interactions With Students

1. They Showed Students They Cared
2. They Knew How to Motivate Students
3. They Had Dynamic Communication Skills
4. They Were Trustworthy and Fair To All

TWELVE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER

By Robert J. Walker

Twelve Characteristics

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Prepared | 7. Cultivate a Sense of Belonging |
| 2. Positive | 8. Compassionate |
| 3. Hold High Expectations | 9. Have a Sense of Humor |
| 4. Creative | 10. Respect Students |
| 5. Fair | 11. Forgiving |
| 6. Display a Personal Touch | 12. Admit Mistakes |

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR GOOD PRACTICE IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

By Chickering & Gamson

Good practice in undergraduate education:

1. encourages contact between students and faculty,
2. develops reciprocity and cooperation among students,
3. encourages active learning,
4. gives prompt feedback,
5. emphasizes time on task,
6. communicates high expectations, and
7. respects diverse talents and ways of learning

WHAT THE BEST COLLEGE TEACHERS DO

By Ken Bain

Unifying Principles

1. Create a natural critical learning environment
2. Get their attention and keep it
3. Start with the students rather than the discipline
4. Seek commitments
5. Help students learn outside of class
6. Engage students in disciplinary thinking
7. Create diverse learning experiences

Teachers and Teaching

The following discussion questions help for a teaching practitioner to self-reflect and evaluate:

BECOMING A CRITICALLY REFLECTIVE TEACHER

By Stephen D. Brookfield

Reflective Inventory

1. What am I proudest of in my work as a teacher?
2. What would I like my students to say about me when I'm out of the room?
3. What do I most need to learn about in my teaching?
4. What do I worry most about in my work as a teacher?
5. When do I know I've done good work?
6. What's the mistake I've made that I've learned the most from?

Personal Assumptions Inventory

1. I know I've done good work when...
2. I know I've done bad work when...
3. I feel best about my work when...
4. I feel worst about my work when...
5. The last time I saw really good teaching was when...
6. The best learning experience I've ever seen students involved in was when...

The Blueberry Story: The teacher gives the businessman a lesson

By Jamie Robert Vollmer

Can a school be run like a business?

Movie Clips

10 Things I Hate About You (1999)

A Beautiful Mind (2001)

Big (1988)

Catch Me If You Can (2002)

Dangerous Minds (1995)

Dead Poets Society (1989)

Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986)

Finding Forrester (2000)

Freedom Writers (2007)

Good Will Hunting (1998)

The Help (2011)

Kindergarten Cop (1990)

Lean On Me (1989)

Mean Girls (2004)

The Mirror Has Two Faces (1996)

Mona Lisa Smile (2003)

Mr. Holland's Opus (1996)

The Nutty Professor (1996)

Radio (2003)

School of Rock (2003)

Stand and Deliver (1988)

To Sir With Love (1967)

Heath Ledger, Julia Stiles

Jennifer Connelly, Russell Crowe

Tom Hanks

Leonardo DiCaprio, Tom Hanks

Michelle Pfeiffer

Robin Williams

Matthew Broderick

Sean Connery, Rob Brown

Hillary Swank, Patrick Dempsey

Robin Williams, Matt Damon, Ben Affleck

Viola Davis Octavia Spencer, Emma Stone

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Penelope Ann Miller

Morgan Freeman

Lindsay Lohan, Tina Fey

Barbara Streisand, Jeff Bridges

Julie Roberts, Kirsten Dunst

Richard Dreyfus

Eddie Murphy

Cuba Gooding Jr., Ed Harris

Jack Black

Edward James Olmos, Lou Diamond Phillips

Sydney Poitier

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