



Getting to the Core: Reflections on Teaching and Learning

by S Joseph Levine

Title: "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Reflections on Teaching and Learning" by S. Joseph Levine

In this unique book -- Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Reflections on Teaching and Learning -- S. Joseph (Joe) Levine shares, in 46 short essays on different topics, many cogent ideas that he has developed and implemented during his long, successful, distinguished professional career in the field of Adult Education. Although I have been involved in the same Professional Field for 35 years, Joe magnificently provides fresh, exciting concepts, as well as revisiting old ones, that will enhance my Professional Practice. It may do the same for yours.

ULTIMATELY
ENTITLED:
GETTING TO THE
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Following is 'my take' on a number of the "catchy" gems he shares.

1. Joe's "tone setter" on 'reflection' in essay # 15, suggests that pondering, contemplating, questioning, considering, and examining -- all aspects of reflecting -- result in learning followed by action.
2. Essay # 2 advocates that our role in the learning situation must be to empower the learner to access learning resources, and to do it in our most expedient and transparent manner.
3. Essay # 3 offers a way for us to elicit feedback from participants that comes in the form of their affirming on the spot (with a "yes, oh yes") the very points being made during the presentation.
4. Essay # 4 asserts that being a good facilitator means knowing how to balance between using our in-depth planning and "flying by the seat of our pants."
5. Essay # 5 metaphorically indicates that providing "clear street signs" is an absolute requirement throughout our learning community, in order to help people move about easily in becoming more effective self-directed learners.
6. Essay # 6 warns that when the learner is no longer the basis for initiating our educational programs, we will lose our foundation and the future is questionable.
7. Essay # 11 reminds us that the level of commitment and trust that exists between the educator and the learner spells the degree to which the learner will exercise his/her desire to learn!
8. Essay # 14 proposes that by modeling good learning techniques and excitement for learning, we begin to establish an expectation in others that we hope they too will learn.
9. Essay # 27 delights anyone willing and able to laugh at him/herself when a family member pokes a little fun on how our office may look.
10. Essay # 36 visualizes how to help learners visualize their "success" as the most powerful beginning step in learning.

There are many more (almost five times as many) excellent treasures in this handbook that may spark some new "zest" in your Adult Education Practice. For anyone in our Field, this is a "must read," and it is presented in an unparalleled, refreshing format.

John A. Henschke, Ed. D. **PAST-PRESIDENT**
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Description:

A wonderful collection of 46 reflective essays that examine the role of the teacher and the challenges faced when trying to help others learn. A must read for adult educators. Presented in an unparalleled, refreshing format. Provides extremely helpful insights into the heart and soul of education - the personal commitment and involvement of those who have dedicated themselves to the wonderful, joyous, rewarding, yet sometimes exasperating, task of helping people learn, grow, and develop.

Fascinated by his own inquisitive desire to learn, Joe Levine has devoted his professional career to awakening that same spirit in others. His ability to ask questions, challenge ideas and encourage reflection have long been a hallmark of his teaching at Michigan State University.

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