

What next?

Everything we do is the result of having learned to do it that way. If we want to do better, we have to learn to do better. Are we learning to do better?

The purpose of Stir Center is to learn to do better.

Step 1: Conceive

Think of an idea that is truly exciting. If only it were possible.

Step 2: Refine

Figure out how the idea might be made to work in the real world. Resolve conflicts. Cross divides. Iron out the kinks.

Step 3: Practice

Develop a set of skills. Practice until natural.

Step 4: Apply

Bring about the changes you want to see.

The purpose of *Talk About Education* is to talk about education. How do we educate ourselves? How do we educate others? How do we pay for education? How does education make the world a better place to live?



Talk About Education

Discussion Group



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Why talk about education?

First let's cut art, music, and gym from public schools. Good idea? Already done. Then let's bring in money by selling stuff. Done! Underpay teachers? Of course. Better still, replace teachers with technology.

Universities sell job permits. The permits are of limited value at the time of graduation since entry level jobs pay squat. Universities, therefore, charge for a lifetime of earnings. Students assume a lifetime of debt.

Pure research? Cut it. Applied research? Useful. Leave it to large corporations to fund research and profit from the results.

Consolidate news organizations and scale back investigative reporting. Too much information is confusing. Report the news as is.

Or make it up out of whole cloth. The news, only better. It says what you want it to say. Gets everyone excited.

People need to learn how to think and behave. To doubt what they learn and believe what they're taught. To feel uncomfortable with questions and comfortable with facts. To do what's rewarded and spurn what is not. To labor unattended and persist when bored.

Does America have a poor standard of education or, depending upon our objectives, the best in the world?

What *are* our objectives? How can they be achieved?

What do people need to learn?

Survival skills?

- Reading, writing, and arithmetic
- Managing money and staying out of debt
- Martial arts, marksmanship, self defense
- Cooking and cleaning
- Using and understanding computers
- Reading contracts, avoiding scams
- Meeting people, joking around, making friends

Achievement skills?

- Working long hours and performing well under stress
- Following instructions and meeting or exceeding expectations
- Staying motivated when it's difficult (extrinsic rewards)
- Getting people to do what you want
- Taking benefits while passing on the costs
- Fashion sense, looking good, building the brand
- Skills to perform a specific task or pursue a career

Thinking and learning skills?

- Asking questions
- Finding answers to questions
- Challenging assumptions, opening up ideas
- Science and math to learn how the world works
- History to learn about probable outcomes
- Literature and philosophy to fill your head with great ideas
- Multiple disciplines to learn different ways of thinking

Citizenship skills?

- Giving to others, sharing, being polite
- Making do with less
- Taking care of the planet
- Reading the news, keeping up on issues, voting
- Civil disobedience

Internal skills?

- Meditating, inner peace, self-awareness
- Empathy, compassion for others
- Love of poetry, music, and art
- Handling pain, disappointment, and loss
- Being happy