

'Create and Inspire! Use Your Classroom as a Place of Learning not Schooling.'

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The Human Mind is extraordinary. Its skills are unmatched by any other thing: living or machine. Unleash the power of the human mind in your classroom by using the mind's ability to explore and grow. Empower your students to think beyond the written page and blackboard, and your classroom will never be the same.

My Five Ideals of Learning

INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE: Not by busy work but through a mental, emotional, and spiritual endeavor to foster improvement in your quality of thinking and ability (skills) to express yourself, and help you understand your mind, body, and spirit, and to discover that you a vital member of this world.

FUN AND REWARDING: This mental challenge stretches the limits of your potential can be fun, maybe not in rah-rah type, but exhilarating all the same when goals are achieved through original, inventive and creative work.

COMMUNICATION IS NOT JUST READING, WRITING, and SPEAKING, BUT IS A MICROCOSM OF LIFE: Using all of humanity (the 'Arts') to enhance communication between yourself and others to reach common goals and develop tolerance for ambiguity.

OUR CLASS SPEAKS TO THE REAL WORLD: We do what "real" people do.

PROVIDE A SAFE, CARING, NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU TO TAKE RISKS, TO EVALUATE YOUR BEING, TO FIND YOURSELF: You are a contributor just as I am, you have a stake in what happens here. We are a community of inspired life-long learners.

Making Your Classroom Student-Centered and Creative

1. Words, words, words are just doorways to thought and emotion.

Notes:

2. Nametags and Boxes and Randomness and Relinquishing power.

Notes:

3. Poetry and the Concept of Choice and Meaning (Highlighter and Quaker Meeting). "A Supermarket in California" by Allen Ginsberg.

Notes: Meaning will Come, Not the Last Time, Only the First Time

4. Improvisation - the Freedom and Chains of Thinking on your Feet. "I have to tell you something...", "This is going to hurt...", "One-In, One-Out, One-Stays" (Grocery Store)

Notes: Five Rules: "don't say 'no'", "trust your partner", "Go with the Flow", "I Forgot What Four Was", and "Not a Tennis Match"

5. The Five Ideals in Action (Putting It All Together) - Memorial site on Krievkalna Island in Koknese, Latvia and *extending it to Estonia*.

Koknese Foundation Information: <http://www.koknesesfonds.lv/?id=2003000>

Project Guidelines: <http://www.koknesesfonds.lv/?id=2002001>

Maps and Pictures: <http://www.koknesesfonds.lv/?id=2006000>

Notes: Deduction and Analysis, Induction and Synthesis

References (Abridged)

<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/100books.htm>

<http://www.poets.org/audio.php>

National Council of Teaching English

<http://www.ncte.org/>

"A Supermarket in California", [Allen Ginsberg](#),

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15306>

Sixteen Ginsbergian things to do in class in addition to throwing Potato Salad

<http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/things-to-do-in-class.html>

Childers, P.B., Hobson, E.H., & Mullin, J.A. (1998). *ARTiculating: Teaching Writing in a Visual World*. Boynton/Cook.

Wasserman, Selma. (2001). Quantum Theory, the Uncertainty Principle, and the Alchemy of Standardized Testing. *Phi Delta Kappan*.

Wilhelm, Jeffrey D. (1996). *"You Gotta Be the Book": Teaching Engaged and Reflective Reading with Adolescents*. Teachers College Press.