



Greetings from the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching! If read in sequence the following quotes are arranged to be a conversation across the ages on a topic. Use for your syllabi, your exams, to start a class discussion, or to enliven your day.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management.

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# Beginning

It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations.

☞ Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.

☞ Alfred, Lord Tennyson

I never let my schooling interfere with my education.

☞ Mark Twain

# Teaching

## **The Nature of Education**

To be able to be caught up into the world of thought--that is being educated.

☞ Edith Hamilton

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper.

☞ Robert Frost

The highest result of education is tolerance.

☞ Helen Keller

Education is the art of making man ethical.

☞ Georg Hegel

Not perfection as a final goal, but the ever-enduring process of perfecting, maturing, refining is the aim of living.

☞ John Dewey

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

☞ John Dewey

Education today, more than ever before, must see clearly the dual objectives: Education for living and educating for making a living.

☞ James Mason Wood

What we must decide is perhaps how we are valuable, rather than how valuable we are.

☞ F. Scott Fitzgerald

Every uneducated person is a caricature of himself.

☞ Friedrich Schlegel

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to an human soul.

☞Joseph Addison

How can we help students to understand that the tragedy of life is not death; the tragedy is to die with commitments undefined and convictions undeclared and service unfulfilled?

☞Vachel Lindsay

Life is what happens when you are making other plans.

☞John Lennon

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

☞Anonymous

Consistency requires you to be as ignorant today as you were a year ago.

☞Berenson Bernard

We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing.

☞Anonymous

Sixty years ago I knew everything; now I know nothing; education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

☞Will Durant

## ***The Relationship between Teaching & Learning***

While we teach, we learn.

☞Seneca

Everybody who is incapable of learning has taken to teaching.

☞Oscar Wilde

To teach is to learn.

☞Japanese Proverb

Teaching is the highest form of understanding.

☞Aristotle

The teacher is the one who gets the most out of the lessons, and the true teacher is a learner.

☞Elbert Hubbard in biographical sketch of Friedrich Froebel

To be a teacher in the right sense is to be a learner. I am not a teacher, only a fellow student.

☞Soren Kierkegaard

## ***On Being a Teacher***

Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.

☞Albert Einstein

We teach what we like to learn and the reason many people go into teaching is vicariously to re-experience the primary joy experienced the first time they learned something they loved.

☞Stephen Brookfield

It is the mission of the pedagogue, not to make his pupils think, but to make them think right, and the more nearly his own mind pulsates with the great ebbs and flows of popular delusion and emotion, the more admirably he performs his function. He may be an ass, but that is surely no demerit in a man paid to make asses of his customers.

☞H.L. Mencken

The best learners...often make the worst teachers. They are, in a very real sense, perceptually challenged. They cannot imagine what it must be like to struggle to learn something that comes so naturally to them.

☞Stephen Brookfield

Teachers who cannot keep students involved and excited for several hours in the classroom should not be there.

☞John Roueche

No man can be a good teacher unless he has feelings of warm affection toward his pupils and a genuine desire to impart to them what he himself believes to be of value.

☞Bertrand Russell

The teachers who get "burned out" are not the ones who are constantly learning, which can be exhilarating, but those who feel they must stay in control and ahead of the students at all times.

☞Frank Smith

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

☞Donald D. Quinn

## ***The Art of Teaching***

It's not what is poured into a student that counts, but what is planted.

☞Linda Conway

A mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled.

☞Plutarch

Men must be taught as if you taught them not,  
And things unknown proposed as things forgot.

☞ Alexander Pope in "Essay on Criticism"

Laurence Houseman once said, "A saint is one who makes goodness attractive." Surely, a great teacher does the same thing for education.

☞ John Trimble

The task of the excellent teacher is to stimulate "apparently ordinary" people to unusual effort. The tough problem is not in identifying winners: It is in making winners out of ordinary people.

☞ Pat Cross

When everyone is somebody, then no one's anybody.

☞ W.S. Gilbert

The vanity of teaching often tempteth a man to forget he is a blockhead.

☞ George Savile

### ***The Process of Teaching***

Teaching = helping someone else learn.

☞ L. Dee Fink

Professors known as outstanding lecturers do two things; they use a simple plan and many examples.

☞ W. McKeachie

Thought flows in terms of stories--stories about events, stories about people, and stories about intentions and achievements. The best teachers are the best story tellers. We learn in the form of stories.

☞ Frank Smith

Good teaching is one-fourth preparation and three-fourths theatre.

☞ Gail Godwin

Many instructional arrangements seem "contrived," but there is nothing wrong with that. It is the teacher's function to contrive conditions under which students learn. It has always been the task of formal education to set up behavior which would prove useful or enjoyable later in a student's life.

☞ B.F. Skinner

The educator must above all understand how to wait; to reckon all effects in the light of the future, not of the present.

☞ Ellen Key

The young man taught all he knew and more;  
The middle-aged man taught all he knew;  
The old man taught all that his students could understand.

☞Arnold Ross

His students were hardly in a position to tell him when he was getting windy, and he had recently noticed, as most professors did after a while, that his lectures mysteriously seemed to be getting longer with time.

☞Aaron Elkins

Tell me and I forget.  
Show me and I remember.  
Involve me and I understand.

☞Chinese Proverb

Teaching is truth mediated by personality.

☞Phyllis Brooks

The true teacher defends his pupils against his own personal influence.

☞A. Bronson Alcott

Teaching is the achievement of shared meaning.

☞D.B. Gowin

Every truth has four corners: as a teacher I give you one corner, and it is for you to find the other three.

☞Confucius

The secret of education is respecting the pupil.

☞Ralph Waldo Emerson

## *A Little Learning*

A little learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.

☞Alexander Pope, in "A Little Learning is a Dangerous Thing"

Every act of conscious learning requires the willingness to suffer an injury to one's self-esteem that is why young children, before they are aware of their own self-importance learn so easily; and why older persons, especially if vain or important, cannot learn at all.

☞Thomas Szasz

"Students learn what they care about..." Stanford Ericksen has said, but Goethe knew something else: "In all things we learn only from those we love." Add to that Emerson's declaration: "the secret of education lies in respecting the pupil." and we have a formula something like this:

"Students learn what they care about, from people they care about and who, they know, care about them..."

☞ Barbara Harrell Carson

The lasting measure of good teaching is what the individual student learns and carries away.

☞ Stanford Ericksen

In all the years I've lived I have yet to stop learning.

☞ Richard Anthony de los Santos II

*Books*

We shouldn't teach great books, we should teach a love of reading.

☞ B.F. Skinner

There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written.

☞ Oscar Wilde

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.

☞ Francis Bacon

Reading without thinking is as nothing, as a book is less important for what it says than for what it makes one think.

☞ Louis L'Amour

As long as I'm reading, I'm at home.

☞ George Foreman

*The Name of the Game*

Elvis Presley had nothing to do with excellence, just myth.

☞ Marlon Brando

I can measure the motion of bodies but I cannot measure human folly.

☞ Sir Isaac Newton

It is easier to perceive error than to find truth, for the former lies on the surface and is easily seen, while the latter lies in the depth, where few are willing to search for it.

☞ Johann vonGoethe

If you do not expect it, you will not find the unexpected, for it is hard to find and difficult.

☞ Heraclitus

Humankind can't stand too much reality.

☞T.S. Eliot

The color of truth is gray.

☞Andre' Gide

Beauty is truth, truth beauty,--that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

☞John Keats, in "Ode on a Grecian Urn"

What a strange illusion it is to suppose that beauty is goodness.

☞Leo Tolstoy

☞ Idea ☞ Criticism

For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.

☞Harrison's Postulate

Remember, any jackass can kick over the barn, but it takes a carpenter to build one.

☞Tip O'Neil quoting Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House

Stoop and you'll be stepped on; stand tall and you'll be shot at.

☞Carlos Urbizo

When you tear the wings off a butterfly, it is no longer a butterfly.

☞Claude Debussy

It is lawful to be taught by an enemy.

☞Ovid

How terrible when all people speak well of you; their ancestors said the very same things about  
the false prophets.

☞Luke 6:26

An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.

☞Niels Bohr

Today I will remind myself and others that mistakes are lessons too.

☞Linda Conway

I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said I don't know.

☞Mark Twain

Let us always be open to the miracle of the second chance.

☞David Stier

# Education & Society

The teacher, whether mother, priest, or schoolmaster, is the real maker of history.

∞H.G. Wells

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

∞Henry Adams

We should so live and labor in our time that what comes to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit.

∞Anonymous

Our echoes roll from soul to soul,  
And grow for ever and for ever.

∞Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Most of our future lies ahead.

∞Denny Crum, former Louisville basketball coach

A technician is a man who understands everything about his job except its ultimate purpose and its place in the order of the universe.

∞Sir Richard Livingston

A paranoid is someone who knows a little of what's going on.

∞William Burroughs

The only fence against the world is a thorough knowledge of it.

∞John Locke

At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems--the answer for all the problems of the world--comes to a single word. That word is "education."

∞Lyndon B. Johnson

In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.

∞Eric Hoffer

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe.

∞H.G. Wells

The nation that expects to be ignorant and free expects what never will and never can be.

∞Thomas Jefferson

What luck for rulers that men do not think.

☞Adolph Hitler

A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education he may steal the whole railroad.

☞Franklin D. Roosevelt

Oh, this age! How tasteless and ill-bred it is!

☞Catullus

We would rather criticize ourselves than not talk about ourselves at all.

☞LaRochefoucauld

## Research

Men love to wonder, and that is the seed of science.

☞Ralph Waldo Emerson

Societies that don't eat people are fascinated by those that do.

☞Ronald Wright

You can ask a question and look stupid, or not ask a question and be stupid.

☞Anonymous

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.

☞Howard Aiken

Originality is the art of concealing your sources.

☞Anonymous

Copy from one, it's plagiarism; copy from two, it's research.

☞Wilson Mizner

In the computer world, hardware is anything you can hit with a hammer, software is what you can only curse at.

☞Anonymous

A figure of speech can often get into a crack too small for logic.

☞Anonymous

Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk.

☞Henry David Thoreau

An intellectual is a person whose mind watches itself.

☞ Albert Camus

If the brain were simple enough for us to understand it, we would be too simple to understand it.

☞ Ken Hill

*Service*

Somebody has to do something, and it's just incredibly pathetic that it has to be us.

☞ Jerry Garcia

A decision is what a man makes when he can't find anyone to serve on a committee.

☞ Fletcher Knebel

I'm very brave generally only today I happen to have a headache.

☞ Tweedledum in *Alice in Wonderland*

If your heart has peace, nothing can disturb you.

☞ Dalai Lama

If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, it's just possible you haven't grasped the situation.

☞ Jean Kerr

If we had had more time for discussing we probably would've made a great many more mistakes.

☞ Leon Trotsky

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

☞ Anonymous

Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do.

☞ Jean-Paul Sartre

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.

☞ Henry David Thoreau

When men are pure, laws are useless; when men are corrupt, laws are broken.

☞ Benjamin Disraeli

It is good to kill an Admiral from time to time to encourage the others.

☞ Voltaire

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

∞Helen Keller

Teach us delight in simple things, and mirth that has no bitter springs.

∞Rudyard Kipling



Misquotations are the only quotations that are never misquoted.

∞Hesketh Pearson

The rest is silence

∞Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 5.2.356