

DRAW THE DOTS, LET THE STUDENTS MAKE THE CONNECTIONS

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Abstract

Learning is the acquisition of knowledge that occurs in a variety of constructs. This poem is modeled as an advocacy for self-learning, a cry to stop the standardization and allow students the freedom to explore their interests. As educators we should not hoard knowledge passing it along at defined stages, but rather provide learners the opportunity to explore the world around them and recreate meaning as they make connections based on their interactions. As we move towards a model of inquisition we will create a community of learners where knowledge is shared, not owned, and we are truly embracing uniqueness and individuality where every learner's true self can shine as they transform into mavens.

Education is about creativity
Teaching to teach, learning to learn
Useless without consideration for learners
Essential to discern

No need to teach how to learn
That is innate
We need to facilitate the art of learning
Allow students to conversate

Embark on a journey of self-discovery
Without mandated freight
Allow growth and exploration
Their true self awaits

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Learn from each other, learn from one's self
Encourage collaboration
The sharing of knowledge
The expression of liberation

Not all learning is structured
Confined by a sheathe
Naturally occurring
Like learning to breathe

Education is foreign
Learning is not
It resonates internally
Something gained not bought

Education a requisite
Typically occurring in a school
But knowledge takes place internally
Individualized knowledge, individualized tools

That can't be taught
That can't be honed
Educators should provide the toolbox
The tools will be owned

Move beyond standardization
Into a world of inquisition
Expression of individuality
Requesting remission

Forgiveness requested
For forcing the learning
Let's shift our focus
And address the yearning

Embrace individuality
Rid ourselves of conformation
Sharing of concepts
Encouraging conversation

A group of learners
Creating a community
Where knowledge is shared
Everyone working in unity

Acquisition of knowledge
Self-learning the key

A right of the student
Not many could disagree

Connecting the dots
To recreate knowledge
Making sense of the world
Uniqueness acknowledged

Expansion of the mind, body, spirit and emotions
Amplification of reality
Understanding one's self
In clear actuality

The concept of holism
One's spirit, body and mind
Intricately working towards
Our true self defined

We teach the system
Not the student
Prescribed curriculum
So imprudent

Let's stop the madness
And embrace the truth
Educate toward self-discovery
It is owed to our youth

Listen to the students
Grant them a voice
To express themselves through education
And finally rejoice

The voice screams loudly
Many times going unheard
To continue to ignore it
Is simply absurd

Teaching, learning, education... a paradox
Better left unsaid
Teach me to be me
Allow my wings to spread

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Jesse Fortier completed her undergraduate degree at Laurentian University in Physical and Health Education (Health Promotion). Her true passion for education was the driving force behind her decision to enroll in the Master of Education program at Nipissing University. It was through her courses with Dr. Carlo Ricci that she was introduced to the concepts of unschooling and alternative learning. These concepts forever changed her view of education and has reignited her passion in this field.

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