

How We Learn: Ned's Gr8 8



#1 Make Sure We're Okay



What gives learners a sense of safety and well-being?

- ✓ Enough sleep and nourishment
- ✓ Good health
- ✓ A distraction-free setting
- ✓ Group norms of trust and respect
- ✓ “Just right” challenges—not too easy and not too hard
- ✓ A culture of learning from mistakes

#2 See That It Matters



Some reasons to care about a challenge

- ✓ The topic connects to our experiences, interests or deep-seated affinities.
- ✓ We see the subject as useful to us now or in the future.
- ✓ We admire someone who does that thing or we want to be part of the group that's involved.
- ✓ We get to choose the topic and how we'll show what we've learned.
- ✓ The interest and commitment of an enthusiastic teacher draws us in.

#3 Keep It Active



What makes a task fun, playful or surprising?

- ✓ New and novel situations
- ✓ Competition
- ✓ Games of imagination
- ✓ Role-playing
- ✓ Puzzles
- ✓ Unexpected outcomes

Remember a time in school when you really cared about a topic or a project. What was it, and what made you care so much?


#4 Get Us to Stretch



What helps us see in different ways and reach beyond our grasp?

- ✓ Breaking topics down into manageable steps
- ✓ Pooling ideas with other students
- ✓ Imagining what it would be like to walk in someone else's shoes
- ✓ Working backward or analyzing a problem from different vantage points
- ✓ Consulting experts

#5 Act Like A Coach

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- ACCESS TO HELP
 - GUIDED PRACTICE
 - ENOUGH TIME
 - MIS~~X~~TAKES ARE PART of the PROCESS

How do you guide someone's practice and reinforce new knowledge and skills ?

- ✓ Frequent, low-stakes quizzes
- ✓ Sensory associations with new knowledge and skills
- ✓ Sorting through and making sense of ill-structured material
- ✓ Action tasks with tangible results, linked to specific goals
- ✓ Timely, user-friendly feedback, including suggestions for next steps

#6 Ask Us to Use It

What can learners do to apply and use new knowledge and skills?



- ✓ Explain new concepts and teach new skills to others
- ✓ Adopt and defend a position based on new knowledge
- ✓ Present or perform material based on new knowledge or skills
- ✓ Publish or exhibit work that requires new knowledge or skills

Of all the things you learned in school, what are some that you've completely forgotten?

#7 Give Us Time to Reflect

What should learners reflect upon?



- ✓ What they have learned and how they might apply it in their lives
- ✓ How they learned and which strategies worked best for them
- ✓ How new learning is connected with—or built upon—prior learning
- ✓ How they have changed after acquiring new skills and knowledge

#8 Have Us Make Plans



What are some of the strategies you use to encourage your students to reflect on what they've learned?

The Motivation Equation

$$V \times E = M$$

Value \times Expectation of Success = Motivation

Forty-Cent Tip

Stories of New York City Immigrant Workers

BY THE STUDENTS OF THREE NEW YORK PUBLIC
INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS



INTRODUCTION BY Marcelo M. Suarez-Orozco

Edited by What Kids Can Do



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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR READERS



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HAVE A STORY FOR WKCD?

Want to bring public attention to your work? WKCD invites submissions from youth and educators worldwide.

Write to us

"There's a radical—and wonderful—new idea here... that all children could and should be inventors of their own theories, critics of other people's ideas, analyzers of evidence, and makers of their own personal marks on the world."

– Deborah Meier, educator



Great American Dreaming

Documenting Stories of Immigration in Your Community



See our current gallery of student work:

[The Legacy of Cesar Chavez: Chicagod students gather immigrant stories](#)

["HOME?": Teen refugees and immigrants explore their Tucson through photos and essays](#)

[The Immigrant's Song": San Francisco students capture the immigrant experience through monologues they create and perform](#)

[Maine students document the human rights stories of local immigrants](#)

See also: [Immigrant Students Use Cartoons to Share Their Journeys](#)—an incredible project and book by students at Oakland International High School, Oakland, CA

PROVIDENCE, RI—Immigration issues continue to fire up debate across America, including how to streamline a heavily bureaucratic visa application process and address the millions of undocumented immigrants already in the United States—particularly young people brought here by their parents. The debate plays out locally as much as nationally (fiercely in border states like Arizona). Almost every community in the nation has become a home to new immigrants, with the promise and challenges they bring.

One of the best ways to engage students in this critical debate, we believe, is to have them gather the stories (and images) of immigrants near at hand. **Y**our students can bring back powerful interviews if they venture into their communities to talk to immigrants they meet or know about their experiences.

WKCD learned this, when we coached and then published such work by New York City students in our photo essay book *Forty-Cent Tip: Stories of New York City Immigrant Workers*.

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and HowYouthLearn.org