

Essentialism: Teacher Centered

Education essentials used for communicating with others and understanding the world in which we live. Essentialism stresses a common core of information and skills that an educated person must have; schools should be organized to transmit this core of essential material. “Memorize” that essentialism is teacher centered and teacher controlled (hopefully one has a good teacher!). Transferring knowledge and skills from older to younger generations. Fueled by extrinsic learning, one may become the teacher’s pet if the philosophy learned is that of the teacher. Knowledge gained is revealed through writing and testing.

- It is *Essential* I memorize everything the *teacher* wants me to learn.

Existentialism: Student Centered

Students determine the pace and direction of their learning, based on experiences. Individuals construct their reality and determine their mediums and methods of learning. Students are given the opportunity to think outside the box and set their educational goals by choosing individual interests. Individual learning based on what the student wants to learn and how they will proceed.

- Had I known of *Existentialism*, I would have graduated at a much younger age!

Perennialism: Teacher Centered

Schools are organized around books (Great Books, classics), students use books to learn for themselves (better have a good library!). Promotes logical and rational thinkers, primarily intellectuals who have the ability to read back the one and only answer to a question. Some knowledge (catholic and secular) is eternally valid and exists for all time.

- Timeless Truths, reading, math and science are reoccurring flowers of *Perennialism*

Progressivism: Student Centered

Emphasizes that ideas should be tested by experimentation and that learning is rooted in questions developed by the learner. Education is organized around students’ interests and concerns. Students learn best from real life experiences and social interaction using scientific methods.

- John Dewey he’s my man! *Progressivism* is where I stand!

Social Reconstructivism: Student Centered

Encourages schools, teachers, and students to focus on reconstructing society. Includes social challenges that evoke emotional responses from students, furthering them to think about the world in which they live,

and how they can change things for the betterment of all. Calls on schools to teach people to control institutions and to be organized according to basic democratic ideals. Schools should rebuild social order.

- Children have the ideals and energy to *Socially Reconstruct* society.