



Activity

Quotes

Purpose:

Practice restating as an active listening skill necessary for collaboration.

Materials:

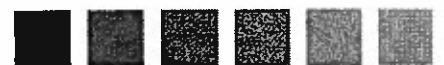
Copies of the quotes about teaching and learning (*See page 7.9.*)

Facilitator Tips:

- Restating is when a person says back what he or she heard another person say without judgment or interpretation. Restating captures feelings and thoughts, tone and meaning. It is helpful for many reasons:
 - To check for understanding,
 - To slow down the dialogue and reduce the chance of escalation,
 - To give everyone in the group a chance to hear the information a second time,
 - To allow for reframing of difficult or controversial ideas, and
 - To validate the speaker.

Procedure:

- In small groups, sort through the quotes and have each group member choose a quote that reflects something he or she believes about education.
- Explain the following ground rules:
 - Listen.
 - No interrupting.
 - No side conversations.
 - No evaluative language.
- Give the following directions: One group member (the speaker) shares his or her quote and explains why he or she chose that quote. The person to his or her right (the listener) restates what the speaker has said. The listener then checks with the speaker to see if he or she got it right. Once the listener has restated both correct tone and meaning, the listener becomes the speaker and the process is repeated until all in the group have been both speaker and listener. The first speaker restates for the last to speak.

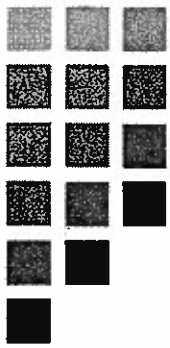




Collaboration

Quotes activity continued

- Once everyone has had a chance to speak and be heard, ask groups to discuss the common characteristics of the quotes chosen and the dissimilar characteristics of the quotes chosen.
- Once everyone has had a chance to speak and be heard, ask groups to discuss the common characteristics of the quotes chosen and the dissimilar characteristics of the quotes chosen.
- Ask members of the small groups to work together to write a quotable statement that captures their common beliefs about education. The statement should begin, "The aim of education is ..." Explain that the criteria for a well-formed statement:
 - Includes pressing ideas from each group member.
 - Reflects agreements and disagreements between ideas.
 - Is one that each member of the group can own.
 - Is one for which each member of the group can find a concrete example in his or her own practice.
- Each small group shares its quotable statement with the whole group.
- Ask each person to share what he or she noticed about listening.



The Aim of Education from A to Z

A. It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry.

– Albert Einstein

B. We cannot seek or attain health, wealth, learning, justice or kindness in general. Action is always specific, concrete, individualized, unique.

– Benjamin Jowett

C. Neutrality, in other words is an immoral act... it is to me a refusal to oppose injustice or to take sides that are unpopular.

– Myles Horton

D. If we value independence, if we are disturbed by the growing conformity of knowledge, of values, of attitudes, which our present system induces, then we may wish to set up conditions of learning which make for uniqueness, for self-direction, and for self-initiated learning.

– Carl Rogers

E. Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.

– Plato

F. It has always seemed strange to me that in our endless discussions about education so little stress is laid on the pleasure of becoming an educated person, the enormous interest it adds to life. To be able to be caught up into the world of thought – that is to be educated.

– Edith Hamilton

G. At last there was the possibility of a learning community, a place where differences could be acknowledged, we would finally all understand, accept and affirm that our ways of knowing are forged in history and the relations of power. Finally, we were going to break through collective academic denial and acknowledge that the education most of us had received and were giving was not and is never politically neutral.

– Bell Hooks

H. Education would be much more effective if its purpose was to ensure that by the time they leave school every boy and girl should know how much they do not know, and be imbued with a lifelong desire to know.

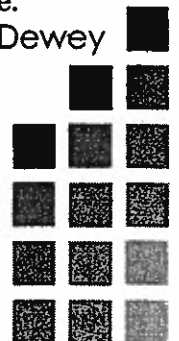
– Sir William Haley

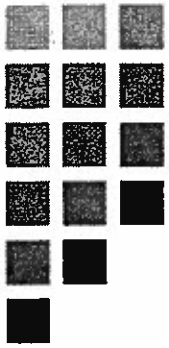
I. I believe that education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform. All reforms which rest simply upon the law, or the threatening of certain penalties, or upon changes in mechanical or outward arrangements, are transitory and futile ... But through education society can formulate its own purposes, can organize its own means and resources, and thus shape itself with definiteness and economy in the direction in which it wishes to move ... Education thus conceived marks the most perfect and intimate union of science and art conceivable in human experience.

– John Dewey

J. Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

– Marian Wright Edelman





K. The purpose of schooling in a democracy is to allow children and youth to progress and develop on the basis of their own ability and talent, that is, meritocratically.

– Terry Astuto

L. The aim of education is to enable individuals to continue their education ... (and) the object and reward of learning is continued capacity for growth. Now this idea cannot be applied to all the members of a society except where intercourse of man with man is mutual, and except where there is adequate provision for the reconstruction of social habits and institutions by means of wide stimulation arising from equitably distributed interests. And this means a democratic society.

– John Dewey

M. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

– Nelson Mandela

N. Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.

– Paulo Freire

O. I think all teaching is partisan. Whether of not we want to be, all teachers are political agents because we help shape students' understanding of the larger society. That is why it is so important for teachers to be clear about our social visions. Toward what kind of society are we aiming?"

– Bill Bigelow(1990)

P. The purpose of schooling in a democracy is to extend the benefits of the society to all children and youth by preparing them to access those benefits.

– Terry Astuto

Q. Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

– W. B. Yeats

R. I believe that schools are lighthouses. I believe that every school harbors within its walls the capacity for grown-ups and students to become inventors and reformers, to engage in authentic change.

– Roland S. Barth.

S. The only form of citizenship being offered to students in school is consumerism.

– Giroux

T. The idea of education advanced in these chapters is formally summed up in the idea of continuous reconstruction of experience, an idea which is marked off from education as preparation for a remote future, as unfolding, as external formation, and as recapitulation of the past.

– John Dewey

U. To prepare children for adult life has always been a fundamental aim of the school.

– Lucy Sprague Mitchell

V. The demands of modern society are such that America's public schools must now provide what they have never provided before: a first-rate academic education for nearly all students.

– Phil Schlechty

W. The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.

– Aristotle

X. Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

– Robert Frost

Y. What does education often do? It makes a straight-cut ditch of a free, meandering brook.

– Henry David Thoreau

Z. Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

– Malcolm Forbes

