

Cracking the myths of Homework

The purpose of Education

Qualification – competence, knowledge, skills and understanding that makes it possible for those being educated to take action. It can vary from specific things to overall competence like citizenship and life skills.

Socialization – becoming a part of a social, cultural and political order.

Subjectification - ..meaning being autonomous and independent in their thinking and acting.
(Biesta 2009. 41)



Professor Gert Biesta at the University of Edinburgh

Three different schools

School 1 Upper secondary school – 13 – 16 years old – process for 6 years

School 2 Upper secondary school – 13 – 16 years old – process for 8 years

School 3 Primary school - 6 - 12 years old - process for 10.

Experienced headteachers

30 years experience of teaching, 7 years being a headteacher

24 years experience of teaching, 4 years as headteacher

45 years experience of teaching, 25 years as headteacher

- From textbooks to no text books
- From teachers emptying knowledge onto the students with no respect of diversity to find out how to engage them, help the to discover, ask questions, do research

Instead of reading or being told about human rights and gay rights



- They create a case with a real couple living in Norway because the countries they come from, living as gays is a crime.
- In which countries is that the case?
- The students will have a reason to find out, a place to start they research.
- On their way they will also find out more about human rights.

Instead of reading or being told about climate changes



- They put up a picture like this and ask questions.
- Do you know who this is?
- Do you know why she is angry?
- How do you feel about the same issue?
- There will be a process for days with a mix of classroom conversations, and the students doing research and sharing.

From seeing repetition as the most important learning strategy to valuing elaboration, experience and discovering



- Evaluation changed from evaluating test results to evaluating and supervise the continuous processes of learning.





Classroom leadership changed from disciplining to creating a rich and including learning environment and academic companionship

- The attitudes towards students changed from thinking that not all students can make it, and that that's nature - towards that ALL students can make it.

- Instead of giving special needs education to small groups - everybody get special education, everybody have special needs.

The teachers have changed how they spend their time

- Before they spent 30% of the time for preparing class – finding out where in the book and which assignments to do
- Now they spend about 70% of the time for preparing class – find engaging questions, make sources available, exchanging experience and discussing approaches towards different students.
- Spend more time observing students and and supervise.
- 100 % less time on giving and evaluate homework.

The communication with parents has changed from monolog to dialogue.

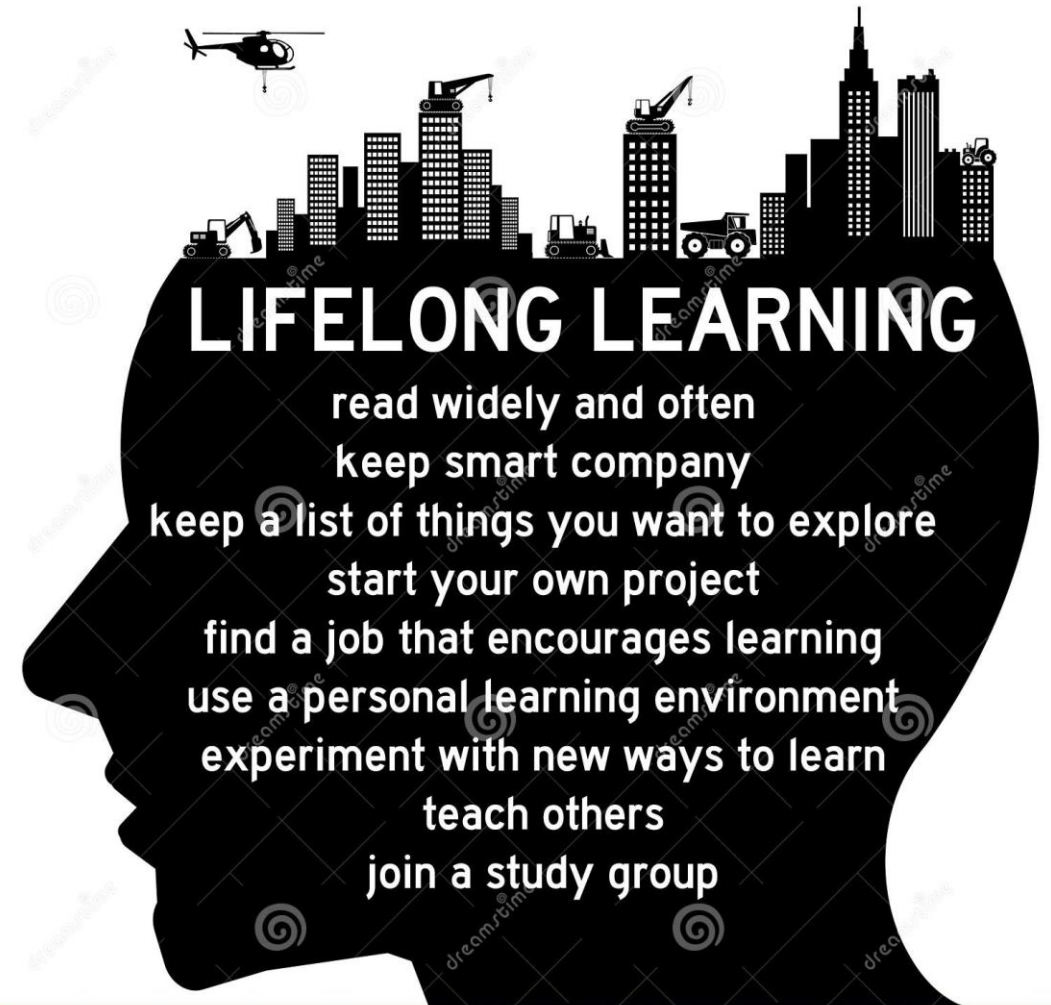


- The expectations of who will support learning have changed from parents, private tutors or volunteer workers

to professional teachers.

- Some teachers have an extra income being a private tutor –
- that is an ethical issue that need to be addressed.

The reason for teaching has changed from teaching to pass tests and exams to teaching for the joy of learning and for learning strategies for lifelong learning.



- Learning is seen as something happening all the time (even when sleeping and playing), not just when the student do schoolwork.

Change from teaching to reproduce knowledge to teach to change the society and the world.



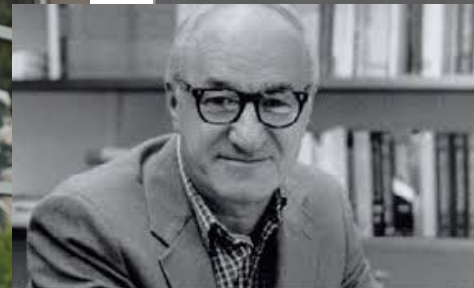
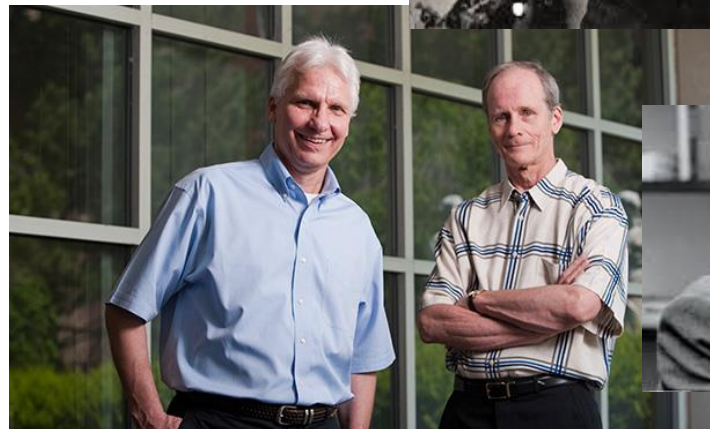
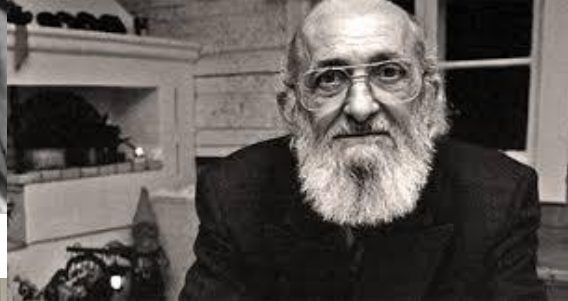
The change in pedagogic and understanding of learning

Pedagogic and understanding of learning from 18crossbow (time of crossbows)	Pedagogic and understanding of learning for the future
Textbooks	Teachers creates the arrangements No textbooks
Teacher empty knowledge to students with no respect of diversity in the group.	How do we encourage student engagement, motivation and build up on their need to discover, need to understand?
Repetition is the most important learning strategy.	Elaboration, experience and discovering are the important learning strategies.
Teacher evaluate testresults.	Teacher evaluate and support learning process
Classroom leadership is about disciplining	Classroom leadership is about creating an including environment for learning and academic companionship.
Not all students can make it. That's nature.	All students can make it. It's our job to find out how and make accommodations.

The change in pedagogic and understanding of learning

Pedagogic and understanding of learning from 18crossbow (time of crossbows)	Pedagogic and understanding of learning for the future
Special needs education in small groups.	Everybody get special education, everybody have special needs.
30% of the time for preparing class – finding out where in the book and which assignments	70% of the time for preparing class – find engaging questions, make sources available
Monolog with parents	Dialogue with parents
Parents, private tutor or volunteer worker support student learning	Teacher support student learning
Teach to test, teach for passing exam	Teach for the joy of learning, learning strategies for lifelong learning
Learning only happens when student do schoolwork	Learning is seen as something happening all the time (even when sleeping and playing and eating dinner)
Teach to reproduce knowledge	Teach to change the society and the world

Nothing new



“The parents who are most concerned about not having homework are parents to students who are high achievers.”

The parents of those who struggle almost never speak up publicly.

- “It comes up that some parents thinks homework gives good grades. I once confronted a mum. I said; “so you say that the reason your kid is getting good grades is because of what she is doing home and the help she gets from you? So you think that it has nothing to do with what she does at school and the support she gets here? That attitude is a huge insult to professional teachers and schools. She said she had never thought of it that way.”

Headteacher secondary school

What about the learning?

- The academic results in the tree schools are the same as most schools in Norway, but two of them have a slightly higher score on academic results.
- There can be many reasons for that.
- No disaster for learning results.
- One of the schools have significantly higher scores than the national level on student wellbeing and motivation.

“The end of homework - is the start of learning.”

<https://www.independent.ie/life/family/parenting/sarah-caden-the-end-of-homework-is-the-start-of-learning-38677357.html>

“Taking away homework is not just a thing you do, this is about changing the whole school and the whole society for more inclusion.»

ENIRDELM

European Network for Improving Research and development of educational Leadership and management

2020 CONFERENCE

Fredrikstad, Norway - September 17-19, 2020

Key note speaker Avis Glaze



Democracy and educational leadership

Thank you for listening

Here you can find the article;

Homework in Primary school: could it be made more child friendly?

<https://www.phil.muni.cz/journals/index.php/studia-paedagogica/article/view/1568>

My email address if you need to get in contact:

Kjersti.e.holte@hiof.no

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