

The New Educational Challenges: "The Rock & The Hard Place"

The Rock: NEW SKILLS for Work, Continuous Learning & Citizenship in a "knowledge society" for ALL STUDENTS

- Convergence of skills needed for careers, college, citizenship
- Students lacking skills relegated to marginal employment & citizenship

The Hard Place: The "Net Generation" is differently motivated to learn

Re-Framing the Problem: Reform vs. Reinvention

- We do not know how to teach ALL students NEW skills and motivate the Net Generation. These are new education challenges that require development of new assessments, different ways of teaching, and new ways of working together and with our students.

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"...our schools are not failing. Rather, they are obsolete." (Wagner, p xxi)

Wagner cites three "fundamental transformations" (p. xxvi) to which schools must adapt:

1. Rise of *global knowledge economy* (profoundly affects all work)
2. Information abundance (flux and glut)
3. Impact of media and technology on how young people learn and relate to the world and each other

What Motivates The "Net" Generation?

1. Accustomed to instant gratification and "always-on" connection
2. Use the web for 1) extending friendships, 2) interest-driven, self-directed learning, and 3) as a tool for self-expression
3. Constantly connected, creating, and multitasking in a multimedia world—everywhere except in school
4. Less fear and respect for authority—accustomed to learning from peers; want coaching, but only from adults who don't "talk down" to them
5. Want to make a difference and do interesting/ worthwhile **work**

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The Seven Survival Skills for Careers, College, And Citizenship

1. Critical Thinking and Problem-solving
2. Collaboration across Networks and Leading by Influence
3. Agility and Adaptability
4. Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
5. Effective Oral and Written Communication
6. Accessing and Analyzing Information
7. Curiosity and Imagination

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Meeting The New Education Challenges: From "Education 2.0" to "Education 3.0"

From narrow focus on "Timeless Learning" (academic content that has stood the test of time):

- Rigor is content mastery (getting more right answers)
- Studying existing content by disciplines
- Learners working alone & in competition
- Motivated mainly by extrinsic rewards (grades)
- Taught by isolated content experts through memorization/recall
- Assessed mainly by multiple choice, computer scored tests

To mastering the *competencies* of "Just-in-Time Learning"

- Rigor is figuring out the right question/problem to be solved
- Exploring new questions/problems within & across disciplines
- Learners working in teams
- Motivated more by intrinsic rewards (pride in mastery, contributing)
- Taught by teamed coaches through exploration & discovery
- Assessed through auditing strategies, portfolios, & exhibitions of mastery (merit badges)

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The "New 3 R's:" Rigor, Relevance, and Respectful Relationships

Questions for Students

1. What is the purpose of this lesson?
2. Why is this important to learn?
3. In what ways am I challenged to think in this lesson?
4. How will I apply, assess, or communicate what I've learned?
5. How will I know how good my work is and how I can improve it?
6. Do I feel respected by other students in this class?
7. Do I feel respected by the teacher in this class?

<http://www.tonywagner.com/resources/rigor-on-trial>