

TEACHING HOW TO TEACH

BY Miss Pat Green

PREPARATION:

1. Read the lesson (or mentally prepare the topic for discussion).
2. Note high points or main topic.
3. Strain brain for practical application.

PRESENTATION:

1. Use ingenuity for approach.
 - a. A loaded question
 - b. Statement to evoke surprise or other emotion
 - c. Narration of experience or other, even a joke, to set the point
 - d. State opposing side of topic; allow class to argue around to the truth
2. Point out the main idea OR encourage class to find it and express it (not used in "d" above until the end).

BODY OF LESSON:

Narrate the lesson as briefly, interestingly, and conversationally as possible. If questions arise, have other pupils answer them. Don't waste time if it's obvious they don't know the answer. If you don't know either, jot it down, ask someone who does know (after promising the class to get the answer), and answer the very next class. If a discussion ensues, back away verbally. Let the class carry the ball, using your position as guide and disciplinarian. Hand-raising--depends on the type of class. Common sense dictates when the discussion is petering out. But do keep the main topic as far forward as you can, reiterating if necessary to avoid overdrawn tangents. (Tangents will creep in; but it's the class discussion--in THEIR interest. Just see it's not prolonged, and not just a means to waste time. If that be the case, tell the student or students you will speak to them after class.)

CULMINATION:

Tie up the discussion by repeating the high points or better, have a pupil or two do it to determine just how much got across. Be sure to have practical application made--either yourself or through the students--or else it's worthless.

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The more you practice silence and LISTEN to the students, the better you will know them: their attitudes, opinions, problems, beliefs, aims, etc. The better you KNOW them, the more fully you will understand them and be in a position to be of help. Lecture or reading--text type classes are, of necessity, taboo in our program. The meeting of minds, understanding of hearts, and ultimate translation of words into action, is our goal. A teen's knowledge that "Somebody Really Cares" will open doors to us. It is up to us to make use of the keys of imagination, interest, and effort to let us in.