

Philosophy of Literacy

I base my philosophy on certain beliefs that I hold about our system of government and society. I believe that in order for our society to prosper the general public must be educated to the point that the average citizen is capable of participating in our free market economy, both as a consumer and a producer. Additionally, I believe, it is essential for the citizens of this great republic to be literate enough to make informed decisions about economic, political, social, and international issues so that they can effectively participate in our political process.

It naturally follows from some beliefs that everyone is entitled to an education; an education that enables them to be full, active participants in our society. In order to achieve this goal, we must afford each citizen the opportunity to learn to communicate effectively in the language of our nation, English. Effective communication includes reading, listening, writing, speaking, and interpretation of visual symbols skills.

My teaching field includes English, language arts and social studies. Students will not be successful in this field if they cannot read and write; two of the most basic skills in this area. More importantly, those who do not master these basic skills will not be able to participate successfully in our modern society. They will be unable to compete effectively for the higher paying jobs, they will be more susceptible to the ploys of con artists, and they will be less likely to become responsible, politically active members of our society.

Looking at the TEKS for 6th grade English language arts the emphasis is on developing a greater mastery of reading and writing skills (Para 110.22, a). The TEKS also points out that students must learn to become effective speakers and listeners and

By: Frank Hammond
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that they must develop the ability to view and interpret visual messages (Para 110.22, 2, 22). TEKS supports what I have been saying; students need these skills to be successful.

Successful students become productive members of society. A productive society leads to general prosperity. General prosperity leads to a higher standard of living for all of us.

Ultimately, our future depends on the future of our children and their future depends on the quality of the education with which we provide them.