Kohut 1

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What Makes a Teacher Great?

Every great student pushes themselves to accumulate as much knowledge as possible. The quality of an educator plays a major role in the development of their students' learning. It is a teacher’s job to come up with the most effective way to pass their knowledge onto their pupils. With the amount of teachers I have learned from, and will continue to learn from, I developed the ability to adapt to different teaching styles. I have discovered common characteristics of great teachers that have allowed me and my peers to be highly achieving students. A great teacher is one who has vast knowledge on a subject and leads debate to encourage free thought, which assists individual students in their personal growth.

Often an esteemed student will ask questions to feed their scholarly curiosity. When a teacher has the knowledge to feed that curiosity, students facilitate their own learning. The job of the teacher is not to instil their personal thoughts in others, rather inspire free thinking.  The connection between a teacher’s knowledge and students’ free thought is made through the debate of topics. Students are encouraged to participate in free debate and discourse when a strong connection with the teacher is made. The teacher and student relationship should have a fine balance between professional and

Kohut 2

personal. Through these relationships, many times a lifelong bond will develop between the teacher and student.

Every class I take. I expect teachers to be open minded, promoting individual opinions rather than pushing their beliefs onto their students. Unfortunately, many teachers follow the human instinct of sticking to what they know. The great teachers I have experienced have simply provided the information for students to form their own opinions. Promotion of free thought in the classroom is the recipe for the growth of students. The most effective way to achieve this is through teacher led debates. I have always been told that one of the most important traits to have is the ability to have uninfluenced free thought based on logic and reason. When teachers lead debate in the classroom based on material that promotes students’ free thought, future success is bred. It is necessary for teachers to put aside their own beliefs and give unbiased information. Teachers are one of the most trusted professionals, so it is easy to believe bias or misleading information taught in the classroom.

I have experienced great teaching on separate sides of the spectrum of learning. In school I have experienced great teaching through a great friendship and bond with my Sports and Spirituality teacher. I know that I can approach him at any time and receive the guidance needed to help me grow as a person. Another great teacher I have had for Government helped me learn to block out the distractions of the media and opposing beliefs and form my own opinions based on my own logic and reason. The teachers that have helped me grow as a person and academically the most are the ones who truly care for me and push me to create my own successes.

Kohut 3

Great teachers are necessary because they are educating the future of society. Students who truly desire academic success are elevated by teachers who promote free thought in the classroom. With the ability to process information and form an uninfluenced thought based on logic and reason, one can perform in any situation and is in turn set up for success.