

SWANSON CREED

1. Education

I believe education is the advancement of thought, knowledge, ideas and ways of thinking within individuals and society. This growth comes from sharing, exploring, and building upon prior knowledge. It may occur through interactions within every day life or through a more structured and conventional schooling. Whatever the situation, education is forward thinking and a desire to grow as both an individual and as a citizen.

2. The School

I believe school is a means of structured education. The school is used as a tool for creating model citizens, members of a community, and the world. It is a system geared toward educating people about society. I believe the school should be used as a tool for exploring the identity of the individual while still tying them to the greater community and nation.

3. The Subject Matter of Education

I believe that the subject matter of education should be to inspire the youth towards *exploring* knowledge. This means in a greater sense that the goals of educating should be to make kids both want to learn and want to succeed at whatever inspires them. I believe that through the education system we can help direct individuals toward pursuing greater goals in life. A teacher should function within this system as a guide to the student both as a mentor and place of information.

4. Method

I believe that a teacher's method is rooted within their experience. This experience comes from our own education and understanding of the world. Our goal as educators should be to mentor students about what we know and to inspire students toward discovery for themselves. This I believe is essential for education, our goal as educators should be social progress both for the individual and society. Lastly, education is student driven as well as teacher driven. A teacher must not only transmit knowledge, but include student in the process allowing for a positive democratic classroom.

5. Social Studies and Social Progress

I believe that the goal of social studies should be to be a vessel for social progress and betterment of society. By teaching students about their community and the world around them, as it is and was, our goal should be to teach about social progress. I believe that it is important to create "good" citizens in society that are forward thinking and recognize the morality, injustice, and wrong. As an educator we must strive to not be afraid of challenging and addressing political, social, economic, etc. issues that *must* be discussed in the safe environment of the classroom. If we cannot discuss these issues here, then where and when can we?