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Department: Teacher's Corner



Jeff Danielian, NAGC Teacher Specialist
Tidying Up the Corner

Five years ago, in response to a new and improved Compass Points, I began a short monthly column entitled [The Teacher's Corner](#). My goal was simple, to reinforce and enhance understandings about specific thematic and subject areas while providing reflections as well as related book titles, websites, professional papers, and other relevant resources. I've been encouraged to hear that the information has been helpful to many of you.

As we all bask in the short but much-needed summer hiatus from the hustle and bustle of the classroom, I'd like to take a moment and revisit some of my favorite installments of The Teacher's Corner, which will soon be available as individual PDFs. I have included the theme and a related quote that captures the essence of the column.

[Assessment of Student Work](#)

"If it is skills you are evaluating, give them choice of content. If it is content, give them choice of product."

[A Focus on Individuality](#)

"The monotony of daily classes is avoided when students are allowed to discover who they are as individuals."

[Communication is Key](#)

"Sometimes all that is needed to open a line of communication is a simple step back, allowing the situation to come into focus."

[Aiding Social and Emotional Development](#)

"Simply asking 'How's it going?' can open up the line of communication between teacher and student."

[The Importance of Failure](#)

"Education, much like life, is an ever-changing process. Failure, as a variable, always comes into play."

[The Teaching Profession](#)

"Educators can only guide students in the right direction, offering suggestions and ideas along the way."

[Creativity](#)

"The freedom to think creatively should be at the forefront of the classroom, for the students, in all their diversity, want to express their thoughts and ideas, no matter how wild or unusual they may seem."

[Identifying Talent](#)

"The ability to identify potential, offer differentiated curriculum (process and product), and assess with individuality are three tools I continue to refine year after year."

[The Myths Which Surround Us](#)

"The time has come to reverse the unrealistic conceptions of not only what the field has to offer, but also what it truly means to be a gifted and talented student in today's society."

[Understanding Our Students](#)

"A lack of knowledge in terms of what to look for and what to do with 'them' once found, carries with it a lack of identification and services for all students of high ability."

[A Perfect Way to Start the School Year](#)

"Start the year with a project that will be meaningful for your students, and revealing to you."

[Writing a Statement of Educational Philosophy](#)

"Whether you are a seasoned veteran, an educator with a few years under your belt, or just starting off in the classroom, drafting, revisiting, and revising a statement of educational philosophy over time is an essential journey to embark upon."

[The Importance of Classroom Discussion](#)

"I have always believed that every student deserves the opportunity to share what they know and what they want to know."

[Lessons from the Lunchroom](#)

"I realized that many of the life lessons we try to instill in our students can be addressed in the lunchroom."

[Utilizing The Wonder Years in the Classroom](#)

[Utilizing The Hunger Games in the Classroom](#)

It is only through effective communication that we can continue to build and solidify our understanding of what it means to be an educator in the 21st century classroom. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.