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## KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED IN LEARNING

### Part 1: Why do students disengage?

1. The Principle: Trying is Natural

2. What happens to the inner life of students between K-12?

What is School?      More than anything else, school is a social event  
in which students are compared and judged.

3. The Disengagement Process: Disengagement means NOT TRYING.

A. Disengagement stems from Atelophobia: the fear of imperfection...of not being enough.

B. Atelophobia stems from Comparison and Judgment.

C. Comparison and Judgment develop THE Disengagement Beliefs:

(1) **I'm not good enough.**

(2) **I'm not smart enough.**

D. THE Disengagement Beliefs are activated by:

(1) OPOs = Other Peoples' Opinions (Teachers, Classmates, Parents)

(2) Content = Hard or Confusing

(3) Processes

(4) Outcomes or Results

(5) Mistakes and Failure

### Part 2: Creating a Culture of Learning: The ESSENTIALS

#### 1. Fostering Relationships That Make Connections and Enhance Belonging

1. The Question:      What processes am I using with students and how are they causing students to engage or disengage?

2. The Principle:      "Connections and belonging prime the brain for learning." Dr. David Walsh

3. Practice 4-at-the-Door: 1. Name-Name

2. Eye-Eye

3. Hand-Hand

4. Heart-Heart



### 3. Telling Students the Secret about Confusion

1. The Question: What do students think, believe, feel or do when they are confused?
2. The Principle: Everything we know or can do today we were once confused about.
3. The Secret: Confusion is a natural and necessary part of ALL learning.
4. Mountain of Learning: "I don't get it." → Confusion → "AHA, I get it."

Steeper Parts of the Mountain: (1) What parts of my curriculum are likely to be more difficult and confusing for students?  
(2) How can I introduce these parts so students will stay on the Mountain and not believe that they are stupid?

5. Confusion Rocks: Celebrate Confusion

Celebrate: Connect a positive emotion to the experience of confusion.

What can we do at our school to celebrate confusion?

### 4. Assure That ALL Students Know That They Have Intelligence

1. The Question: What percentage of students at your school know that they are intelligent?
2. The Principle: All students are intelligent.
3. The Glen Story: Who is your Glen?
4. Wendy Soderman -- IDEAL School: "Schools determine **which** kids are smart.  
My school determines **how** kids are smart."

5. Dr. Howard Gardner: Multiple Intelligences

- Linguistic intelligence ("word smart")
- Logical-mathematical intelligence ("number/reasoning smart")
- Spatial intelligence ("picture smart")
- Bodily-Kinesthetic intelligence ("body smart")
- Musical intelligence ("music smart")
- Interpersonal intelligence ("people smart")
- Intrapersonal intelligence ("self-smart")
- Naturalist intelligence ("nature smart")

6. Teacher Tips: How can I help my students know that they have intelligence?

A. Wahsoleya (wah-so-lay-a) = "I have intelligence."

B. Practice the script: "I am smart. I just don't understand \_\_\_\_ yet."  
"I am smart. I'm just confused about \_\_\_\_."  
"I am smart. I just can't \_\_\_\_."

## **Top 20s Practice Kaizen: Continual Improvement**

Regarding keeping students engaged in learning:

Continue: What am I doing that I want to continue doing?

Start: What am I not doing that I want to start doing?

Stop: What am I doing that I want to stop doing?

**Top 20 Curriculum:**      Top 20 K-6 Smart Board or Power Point Curriculum  
                                 Top 20 TLC -- Grades 3-6 Curriculum  
                                 Top 20 Teens -- Grades 7-12 Curriculum

**Top 20 Books:**

*Top 20 Teens: The Best-kept Thinking, Learning and Communicating Secrets of Successful Teenagers*  
*Top 20 Teachers: The Revolution in American Education*  
*Top 20 Parents: Raising Happy, Responsible and Emotionally Healthy Children*  
*Why Students Disengage in American Schools and What We Can Do about It*  
*Rebalanced Thinking, Rebalanced Living: Developing Your Inner Life through Social-Emotional Learning*

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