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Theatre Education Right Now
A SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECT AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATION
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THE RESEARCH PROJECT

The Research Questions

What are “best practices” in high school education in the U.S.?

How can theatre uniquely serve “best practices” in the U.S.?

What are “best practices” in High School Theatre Education?

Our Resources


What are “best practices”

• The Seven Structures of Best Practice Teaching (Zemelman, Daniels and Hyde):
  – Gradual release of responsibility
    – Classroom workshop
    – Strategic thinking
    – Collaborative activities
    – Integrative units
    – Representing to learn
    – Formative-reflective assessment

Best practices in Theatre Education

Based on our reading of Gonzalez and Lazarus, we have discovered that to achieve excellence, theatre education needs:

• Content that is interesting and engaging to students, and which challenges what we know as the canon and/or challenges how canonical works can be cast or performed.
• A dialogue between teacher and students that is mutually influential.
• Strategic teaching practices that facilitate students’ journey of self-discovery as well as develop their love of theatre.
• An intentional building of community across different identity groups.
• Teachers who have high standards of professionalism in their artistry, consider themselves artists, and consider their students artists.

11 Key Ingredients of Good High Schools (Daniels, Bizar, and Zemelman)

• School Size
• School Climate
• Voice and Leadership
• Teaching
• Curriculum
• Community Experiences
• Scheduling
• Technology and Materials
• Assessment
• Professional Development
• Relationships

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR THEATRE AND EDUCATION
SUMMER 2014

Panelists

John Newman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Utah Valley University
Director of the Noorda Theatre Center for Children and Youth

Alicia Sanders
Teacher, Oakwood HS, Morgan Hill, CA
AATE High School Theatre Co-Chair

Holly Stanfield
Teacher, Mary D. Bradford HS, Kenosha, WI
2014 Recipient of the CFTA Reba R. Robertson Award

Luis Muñoz
State Theatre Director for the University Interscholastic League, TX
2014 Recipient of the AATE F. Loren Winship Secondary School Theatre Award

Stephen Gundersheim
Associate Professor, Winthrop University
AATE Board Member, Multiculturalism and Diversity Director

Discussion Questions

How can theatre education uniquely achieve “best practices”?

What are the challenges of achieving “best practices,” considering these 11 needs?

How do you achieve Best Practices in Theatre Education?

What are the roles of State and National Standards in your practice?