

Things To Do With Kids

A Portfolio of Activities

For those who like participation games, there is a short quiz. It tries to pin you down. You are asked to assess your position upon various continuums. The seven questions match seven areas of contention that shape the Things To Do in this section.

QUIZ

1. My emphasis in teaching would be towards helping kids gain critical and creative skills for their use in understanding the impact of broadcast television in their lives.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

2. I would not find it useful to follow someone else's video studies curriculum regardless of how good I thought it was.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

3. Even if I believed that the development of specific, measurable "behavioral objectives" was inappropriate for use in teaching video, I would fashion such statements if school administration required them.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

4. In introducing kids to portapaks, I would simply set the unassembled equipment on a table and then leave the room for awhile after asking a small group of kids to try to figure

out how to assemble the equipment and then proceed to record and playback and tape.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

5. When you really come down to it, any assignment for, say, street-shooting achieves pretty much the same things as any other street-shooting activity.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

6. It is not important for kids to make tapes which are finely finished and suitable for large public showings.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

7. The only successful way to have kids learn about video is to have them do video productions.

agree 1 2 3 4 5 disagree

Something happens in a room full of teachers when the talk turns to activities. It clears the air. There is an expectation of usefulness. A "here's-what-I've-done-that-works" perspective seems to cut away the puffery of rhetoric, theory, goals, rationale, acceptance strategies and specific objectives. Discussing what to do with kids avoids tendencies for self-depreciation or boastfulness. It resolves as a given everyone's Best Attentions.