Wholehearted teaching and learning: Exploring authenticity, self-compassion, and joy in schools and classrooms

The Educational Forum is seeking articles for its Fall 2021 themed issue: Wholehearted teaching and learning: Exploring authenticity, self-compassion, and joy in schools and classrooms.

Amidst growing violence, alienation, and depression in our society, but particularly for youth, this year’s special issue draws on the work of Brené Brown and her guideposts for “wholehearted living.” We ask, “How do we cultivate wholehearted teaching and learning in our schools and classrooms?”

Brown’s guideposts are the following:

1. Cultivating Authenticity and Letting Go of What Other People Think
2. Cultivating Self-Compassion and Letting Go of Perfectionism
3. Cultivating Your Resilient Spirit and Letting Go of Numbing and Powerlessness
4. Cultivating Gratitude and Joy and Letting go of Scarcity and Fear of the Dark
5. Cultivating Intuition and Trusting Faith and Letting Go of the Need for Certainty
6. Cultivating Creativity and Letting Go of Comparison
7. Cultivating Play and Rest and Letting Go of Exhaustion as a Status Symbol and Productivity as Self-Worth
8. Cultivating Calm and Stillness and Letting Go of Anxiety as a Lifestyle
9. Cultivating Meaningful Work and Letting Go of Self-Doubt and Supposed-To
10. Cultivating Laughter, Song, and Dance. And Letting Go of Cool and Always in Control

We invite authors to creatively explore the use of Brown’s principles to investigate questions such as: How do our teaching practices foster empathy rather than shame? How do we counter violence and misogyny through content and pedagogy? How do we invite joy and authenticity in our classrooms? How do we support young people in cultivating wholehearted living and learning? Within the neoliberal context of standardization and testing, how do we open opportunities in our classrooms for creativity, play, and the arts? These questions suggest topic areas but are not exhaustive. We encourage submissions not only from scholars and researchers, but also from students, teachers, artists, parents, and community organizers.

We encourage authors to practice wholehearted living in their submissions, pushing the boundaries and constraints of traditional academic writing and being playful, authentic, and creative in their writing. We welcome research that is arts-based, autobiographical, ethnographic, autoethnographic, collaborative, or phenomenological. Besides traditional submissions, we will also consider a variety of genres for this issue including scripts, comics, poems, song lyrics, fictional narratives, photographic images, personal memoirs, links to videos, or manuscripts that combine genres.

Submissions should not exceed 7,000 words, including all references and back matter to the article. We seek previously unpublished thematic essays or empirical research. For full
Submission deadline: January 15, 2021

Submissions should be made at: https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/utef
Please include the code 854 at the beginning of your manuscript title

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