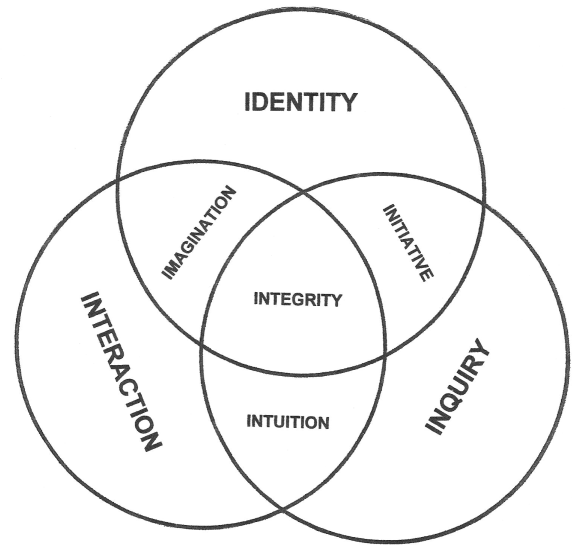


# Educating for Human Greatness

**Educating for Human Greatness** represents the recommendations of a coalition of researchers, educators, and parents whose mission is to advocate a new vision for education. Our combined experience tells us that the goal of passing standardized tests is superficial and temporary whereas learning from personal inquiry is deep and enduring. *We have a vision of schools where teachers, parents and students are mutually respected and where they help each other draw forth their best gifts, talents and abilities.*



America's current education system compels teachers to focus upon test scores, not develop individuals who can make positive contributions to society. Students as young as five years old are pressured to memorize facts and irrelevant material in preparation for standardized tests. This sterile approach tends to subvert curiosity, impede imagination, and lead to negative attitudes towards schooling.

The framework we propose is based upon a higher purpose for education: *Develop human beings to be positive contributors to society.* We want students to fall in love with learning, to develop their full potential, and to become resilient, innovative thinkers.

**Educating for Human Greatness** embraces seven principles:

- **Identity** – Help students learn who they are and who they could become.
- **Inquiry** – Stimulate curiosity and cultivate an appreciation for the natural world.
- **Interaction** – Promote courtesy, caring, communication, and cooperation.
- **Initiative** – Foster independent learning, self-discipline, and critical analysis.
- **Imagination** – Actively nurture creativity and innovation.
- **Intuition** – Help students learn how to seek truth with their hearts as well as with their minds.
- **Integrity** – Develop honesty, character, morality and responsibility for self and others.

Rather than relying solely on standardized tests created by corporations, *Educating for Human Greatness* recommends giving credence to the expertise of teachers (who see students every day) to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of learning.

Specific details on implementing these recommendations can be found at <http://definegreat.ning.com>.

See the reverse side for the people who have contributed to and/or endorsed this proposal.

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