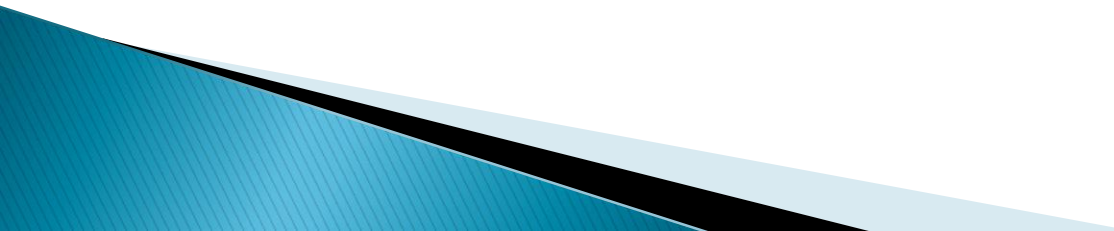


Madison William Taylor's Personal Learning Project

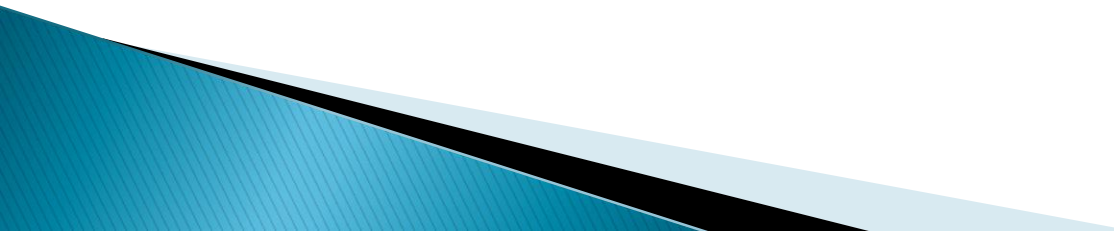
A WORK IN PROGRESS



Project Philosophy

- ▶ The ideology behind my project is life's a journey not a destination. Throughout my educational career I have encountered a variety of experiences. These various interactions have made me into the person I am today. Certainly I am not the same person I was in the beginning or a mile back. Fortunately this journey is just beginning and hopefully my current path will take me in the direction I want to go.
- 

Personal Information

- ▶ I am a second year History and Economics teacher in Little Rock, Arkansas.
 - ▶ In addition to my teaching responsibilities I coach football and weightlifting.
 - ▶ Coaching is my passion as I aspire one day to be a head coach and athletic director.
 - ▶ Therefore these personal interests are the foundation for my personal learning project.
- 

Economics

- ▶ *God's Politics by Jim Wallis*
- ▶ *This book is a critique of how both sides of the political arena are missing the boat on effectively dealing with the poverty & healthcare issues in America today.*
- ▶ *Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith*
- ▶ *This book provides an historical perspective on an Economic system and timeless economic principles which still hold true today.*

Teaching Economics

- ▶ *Freakonomics: By Steven Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner.*
- ▶ This book is a wonderful blend of pop culture and modern economic theory. This is the basis of my economic theory in class.
- ▶ Principles of Microeconomics by Gregory Mankiw
- ▶ This was the text of my favorite class in college and I utilize this book as a daily resource in implementing economic principles.

Educational Theory

- ▶ The Education of Little Tree by Asa Edwards
- ▶ This is the only book I ever cried while reading. Truly showed me the true reason to become an educator & what a real education entails in all areas.
- ▶ Teach like your hairs on fire by Rafe Esquith
- ▶ This book altered my classroom behavior plan and showed me a new and successful way to motivate myself and students in performance in as well as out of the classroom.

Coaching

- ▶ Nick Saban's biography is the best coaching book I have ever read. Throughout this novel he details how to successfully run and organize a football program at a championship level. My football program will be strongly patterned after Coach Saban's.
- ▶ Tony Dungy's work entitled *Quiet Strength* is a personal memoir of how a true champion coach acts both on and off the field. In my life I now try to embody the moral principles demonstrated in this book.

Motivation

- ▶ *Blind Courage* by Bill Irwin is the story about how a blind man and his seeing eye dog hiked the Appalachian trail. I often look at this work when I feel as though I cannot achieve my goals and dreams.
- ▶ *The Senior* by Mike Flynt is a book involving a 55 year old man that returns to his college to finish his career because he did not like the way he left the school. This reminds me to always do my best and have no regrets.

Educational Theory

- ▶ Howard Gardener's multiple intelligences is the basis of my educational philosophy. I now try to teach to the different learning types outlined in his theories.
- ▶ John Dewey's Theory of Inquiry is a book I encountered in another masters class. Dewey was one of the first philosophers to examine how minds inquire. Thus revolutionizing the way I view my own thinking.

Networking

- ▶ *Computer Networking First Step* by Wendell Odom
- ▶ As computer technology have become staples in the American Culture this would be an excellent book for me to begin learning about the art of Networking.
- ▶ *Computer Networks* by Andrew Tanenbaum
- ▶ A work for beginner novice like my self which provides a fundamental overview of the interworking of the Computers and how they function.

Football

- ▶ *A Season of Life* by Jeffry Marx
- ▶ This book is a wonderful biography detailing the need for a positive relationship between father and coach and coach and player. Truly Inspirational
- ▶ *Farewell to Football* by Jerry Kramer is an excellent work that explains the darker side of playing in the NFL. This work is a consummate reminder of how Prep football should be fun and enjoyable not a business.

POEMS

- ▶ The Road Less Traveled by Robert Frost.
- ▶ This poem inspired me to not be afraid to be my own person and travel on the road. Hopefully through my teaching I can others follow me.
- ▶ A Prayer in a time of war by Alfred Noyes
- ▶ Is a work which reminds me how I as an American should act and serve my country in daily life.

Blogs

- ▶ www.smartfootball.com
- ▶ This recently altered blog is a cultural resource for all football fans covering topics ranging from strategy all the way to football gossip.
- ▶ www.brophyfootballblogspot.com
- ▶ A great blog full of information for defensive football coaches. This blog is a must read for the football fanatic like myself.

Newspapers

- ▶ The Tennessean which is the city paper for Nashville Tennessee is a paper I read daily. This paper and its longtime writers have been my lens for local as well as national news my entire life.
- ▶ The New York Times is a paper that covers in an aggressive manner some of the toughest stories on record. I enjoy reading some of the refreshing columnists.

History

- ▶ The Biography of Abraham Lincoln is a great history read. This book framed up the civil war as well as showed me how presidents should lead America in times of great distress.
- ▶ The Clash of Civilizations by Samuel P Huntington
- ▶ A great theory and read about how culture greatly affects the future state not only of America but the entire World.

Weightlifting

- ▶ The Magazine Men's Health is a work I frequently refer to when examining diet, health, and nutrition.
- ▶ The Magazine Men's Journal is an excellent resource regarding weightlifting tips and exercises for both casual and competitive lifting.

Investing

- ▶ Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace and Total Money Makeover is a great book explaining the basis of having and maintaining a financial plan for all stages of life. As an economics teacher I try to explain to my students the dangers of debt.
- ▶ Gone Fishing by Alexander Green is an excellent book which empowered me to be able to make my own financial decisions regarding investing and saving. Also as an economics teacher I utilize this principles daily.

Religion

- ▶ An obvious choice for me as the main book I enjoy looking at is the Bible. Regardless of any personal beliefs this book tells some great stories and insights on why our society lives the way we do.
- ▶ The life you have always wanted by John Ortburg
- ▶ With religion at the backdrop the author shows all people of all faiths can truly live the life they have always wanted.

Relationships

- ▶ *Men are from Mars Women are from Venus* by John Gray is an excellent work regarding the differences between men and women in romance. As a husband this book taught me many great lessons.
- ▶ *Buyers, Renters, and Freeloaders* by Willard Harvey
- ▶ This book showed me importantly how I do not want to act as boyfriend and now husband. A great read for someone trying to decide whether to stay in a relationship. I try using both of these books to help my students in relating.