

William Heard Kilpatrick



The “Project Method” of Teaching.

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Biography

- ❑ Kilpatrick was born in 1871 in Georgia.
- ❑ He went to college at Mercer College and then continued to teach in Georgia.
- ❑ Then he enrolled himself at Teachers College where he continued to teach after graduation.
- ❑ Soon he began to question the educational idea that “students were to receive information, adjust to it and memorize it well enough to pass the necessary examination” (Van Ausdal, 165).

Progressivism

- ❑ ...an educational theory that emphasizes that ideas should be tested by experimentation and that learning is rooted in questions developed by learners (Dupuis, 327).
- ❑ The goal of progressivism is to expose the learner to the subject matter of social experiences, social studies, projects, problems, and experiments that, when studied by the scientific method will result in knowledge that children will be able to use in the future (Dupois, 328).

The “Project Method” of Teaching

- ❑ ...emphasized the use of purposeful activity as the basis of education (Schultz, 45).
- ❑ Kilpatrick believes that the best way to prepare children for later life is through practice in living now. He thought that the best way to practice was by doing projects.
- ❑ The 4 vital steps when doing projects. They are: purposing, planning, executing, and judging (Van Ausdal, 165).
- ❑ There are 4 different types of projects (Schultz, 51):
 - ❑ Embodying an idea or plan
 - ❑ Enjoying an experience
 - ❑ Straightening out some intellectual difficulty or solving a problem
 - ❑ Obtaining some item or degree of skill or knowledge

The Teacher's Role

- ❑ Students and teachers should work together to solve problems.
- ❑ By working together the teacher's role in the success of the educational process should be gradually eliminated (Van Ausdal, 166).
- ❑ The teacher should be able to identify the student's interests and then guide them through projects that will allow them to apply their interest to the demands of society.
- ❑ Because the "project method" of teaching is student-centered, there should be more of a focus on the students and less of a focus on formal instruction and lecture.

Works Cited

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- Schultz, F. (2001). *Sources: Notable Selections in Education*. (3rd ed., pp.45-52). Guilford: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin.
- Van Ausdal, S.J. (1988). William Heard Kilpatrick: Philosopher and Teacher. *Childhood Education*, 64, 3, 164-168. Retrieved January 25, 2008 from the ProQuest Education Journals.