

The Answer to the Fury & Failure in America's Schools: *The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method!*

~ PUBLIC SEMINAR ~ MAY 12 ~ THURSDAY 6:30 PM ~

Hear the ANSWER to the fury and failure in America's schools: the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method! New York City teachers will describe, with vivid lessons from their own classrooms, the educational method that *works*, that has enabled students in all grades to love learning—including young people who had given up.

The Basis

This method is based on principles stated by the American educator Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism: 1) "The purpose of education," he explained, "is to like the world through knowing it." 2) The chief cause of failure to learn is *contempt*—the feeling one "will be for [one]self by making less of the outside world." Contempt for what's different from oneself is also the cause of the gang fights, bullying, and assaults on students and teachers that are making America's schools so dangerous.

Millions of young people feel rooked and are furious. Students see their parents work two or more jobs and still struggle to put food on the table and pay rent. And when a child comes to school hungry—as, shamefully, so many in our rich nation do—let us not fool ourselves, it affects that child's ability to learn! Every person should be against this hideous injustice.

Meanwhile, without knowing it, students can use the ugliness they see, including the racism many of them endure, to be angry at the wrong things—to feel, "The world is a mess. Why should I give a damn about cube roots or photosynthesis? What's school going to get me anyway?" At this seminar you'll hear what opposes that inaccurate fury and resignation and brings out students' ability to learn! This groundbreaking principle is the means: "*The world, art, and self explain each other: each is the aesthetic oneness of opposites.*"

An Example: Sameness & Change

For instance, young people can feel terribly stuck, bored, as if everything is the same old routine—and also feel the world is unreliable and people change in ways that don't make sense. Then in a 9th grade science class they see, through the Aesthetic Realism method, how the *water cycle* is a magnificent relation of those very opposites: *sameness and change*. They learn how water is always H₂O, yet changes: water in a Bronx puddle can evaporate into the sky; be carried as vapor till it condenses into snowflakes over the Appalachians; remain frozen solid till spring, when it flows down a mountain stream to a reservoir—and comes out of a faucet in Brooklyn!

As students see that any fact in the curriculum is a oneness of the very opposites they ache to make sense of in themselves, they're excited! *They learn successfully*. As they see the same opposites are in everyone in the class, they become kinder!

Speakers: LAUREN PHILLIPS (2nd grade, PS 184M) • ROSEMARY PLUMSTEAD (science, LaGuardia HS, retired) • CHRISTOPHER BALCHIN (social studies, Norman Thomas HS) • PATRICIA MARTONE (ESL, PS 134M) • ARNOLD PEREY (instructor, The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method)

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