

## Sixteen Principles of Teaching for Wisdom

1. Explore with students the notion that conventional abilities and achievements are not enough for a satisfying life. Many people become trapped in their lives and, despite feeling conventionally successful, feel that their lives lack fulfillment. Fulfillment is not an alternative to success, but is an aspect of it that, for most people, goes beyond money, promotions, large houses and so forth.
2. Demonstrate how wisdom is critical for a satisfying life. In the long run, wise decisions benefit people in ways that foolish decisions never do.
3. Teach students the usefulness of interdependence — a raising tide raises all ships; a falling tide can sink them.
4. Role-model wisdom because what you do is more important than what you say. Wisdom is action-dependent and wise actions need to be demonstrated.
5. Have students read about wise judgments and decision making so they understand that there are such means of judging and decision making.
6. Help students to recognize their own interests those of other people, and those of institutions.
7. Help students to balance their own interests, those of other people, and those of institutions.
8. Teach students that the "means" by which the end is obtained matters, not just the end.
9. Help students learn the roles of adaptation, shaping, and selection, and how to balance them. Wise judgments are dependent in part on selecting among these environmental responses.
10. Encourage students to form, critique, and integrate their own values in their thinking.
11. Encourage students to think dialectically, realizing that both questions and their answers evolve over time, and that the answer to an important life question can differ at different times in one's life (such as whether to go to college).
12. Show students the importance of dialogical thinking, whereby they understand interests and ideas from multiple points of view.
13. Teach students to search for and then try to reach the common good — a good where everyone wins, not only those with whom one identifies.
14. Encourage and reward wisdom.
15. Teach students to monitor events in their lives and their own thought processes about these events. One way to recognize others' interests is to begin to identify one's own.
16. Help students understand the importance of inoculating oneself against the pressures of unbalanced self-interest and small-group interest.