

# IATEFL — 43<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Engage Me or Enrage Me

April 1, 2009  
Cardiff, WALES



## Marc Prensky

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# *My Latest Book:*

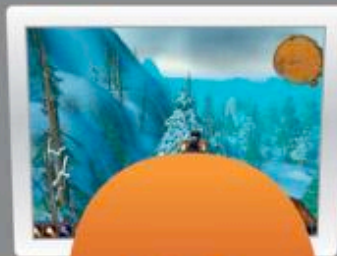
How Computer and Video Games Are Preparing Your Kids  
For 21st Century Success—and How You Can Help!

“

**Don't Bother  
Me Mom—**

**I'm  
Learning!**

”



**Marc Prensky**

with a foreword and contributions by  
James Paul Gee, Ph.D.  
Tashia Morgridge Professor of Reading  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**How do we get our**  
**Students,**  
**and particularly our**  
**Younger Students**  
**more engaged in**  
**Learning English?**

**I try to look at  
education  
through the eyes of the  
students**

***“ENGAGE ME***

***or***

***ENRAGE ME”***

*– Dr. Kip Leland LAUSD LAVA*



**It's not attention deficit –  
I'm just not listening!**

# *Why?*

- **5-10,000 hours Video Games**
- **250,000 emails and IMs**
- **10,000 hours on cell phones**
- **20,000 hours TV (incl. You tube)**
- **500,000 commercials**
- 
- **< 5,000 hours book reading**

# Digital Natives

- **2 billion** ring tones per year
- **2 billion** songs per month
- **6 billion** text messages per day



# Digital Natives

**Very different attitudes towards**

- **technology**
- **communication**
- **sharing**
- **learning**

**“We grow up interacting  
– through computers and  
through our cell phones –  
and that’s how we learn.**

*– A graduate student*

**They ask...**

**“So why should I  
learn English?”**

**-- any student**

# *Why learn English?*

- **It's the mark of an educated person**
- **Colleges require it**
- **It might help you in the future**
- **You can communicate now with your peers in English-speaking countries**

**Unless students can  
communicate with their  
peers, it's worthless  
for them**



**Our kids are**

**GLOBAL  
CITIZENS!**

**“We want  
community”**





**Community**  
=  
**THE WORLD**

**How many of you  
See your job as**

**Connecting kids  
With the world?**

**In language learning,  
technology changes  
everything!**

**Because it CAN connect  
kids to their peers  
around the world**

# ***Web 2.0***

**Putting stuff online  
and getting feedback**

**Incredibly  
empowering  
to students!**

**First time vblogging for the purpose of practicing oral english skills**



**i know there is no matter of what i say, but  
i have no idea what to talk about in the  
way to practice English, so everywhere i  
go and if i have the camara with me I use it  
and i talk of what i am do...**





**“[Young people] are not just using technology differently today, but are approaching their life and their daily activities differently because of the technology.”**

**--Net Day “Speak-up Day” Summary**

**The emerging**  
***ONLINE LIFE***  
**of the**  
***Digital Native***

# *The* **Digital Natives**

*e-Life*

## **Communicating**

*IM, chat*

## **Sharing**

*Blogs, Facebook*

## **Buying & Selling**

*ebay, craigslist*

## **Exchanging**

*peer-to-peer*

## **Learning**

*Wikipedia, You Tube, search*

## **Meeting**

*Second Life*

## **Gaming**

*Online, MMORPGs, Cell Phones*

## **Coordinating**

*Projects, workgroups, MMORPGs*

## **Evaluating**

*Reputation systems–  
Epinions, Amazon, Slashdot*

## **Collecting**

*Mp3s videos, sensor data*

## **Creating**

*Sites, avatars, mods*

## **Evolving**

*Peripheral, emergent behaviors*

## **Searching**

*Info, connections, people*

## **Analyzing**

*SETI, drug molecules*

## **Reporting**

*Moblogs, photos*

## **Programming**

*Open systems, mods search*

## **Socializing**

*Learning social behavior, influence*

## **Growing Up**

*Exploring, transgressing*

# **Web 2.0**

***eMail / IM (ePals)***

***2-way video (You Tube, Skype)***

***Blogs (blogger.com)***

***Wikis (e.g. Wikipedia)***

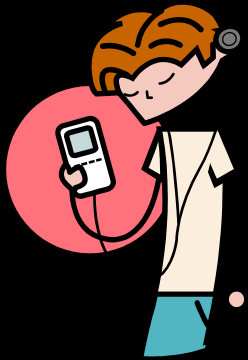
***Podcasts (iTunes store)***

***Games (English versions)***

***Virtual Worlds (second life, llab.com)***

***Social Networks (Facebook)***

# Digital Natives



# Digital Immigrants

We have a

# “Digital Immigrant Accent”



- **Printing out our e-mails**
- **Not Going to the Internet First**
- **Thinking “Real Life” and “real communication happen only off-line**
- **Thinking we know what our students want and need without having to ask**



**How do we**  
**“OVERCOME”**  
**our**  
**Digital Immigrant**  
**Accents?**

**Step 1:**  
**Admit**  
**that we**  
**have one!**



**People “get past” an accent  
when they**

**RESPECT**

**the other person**

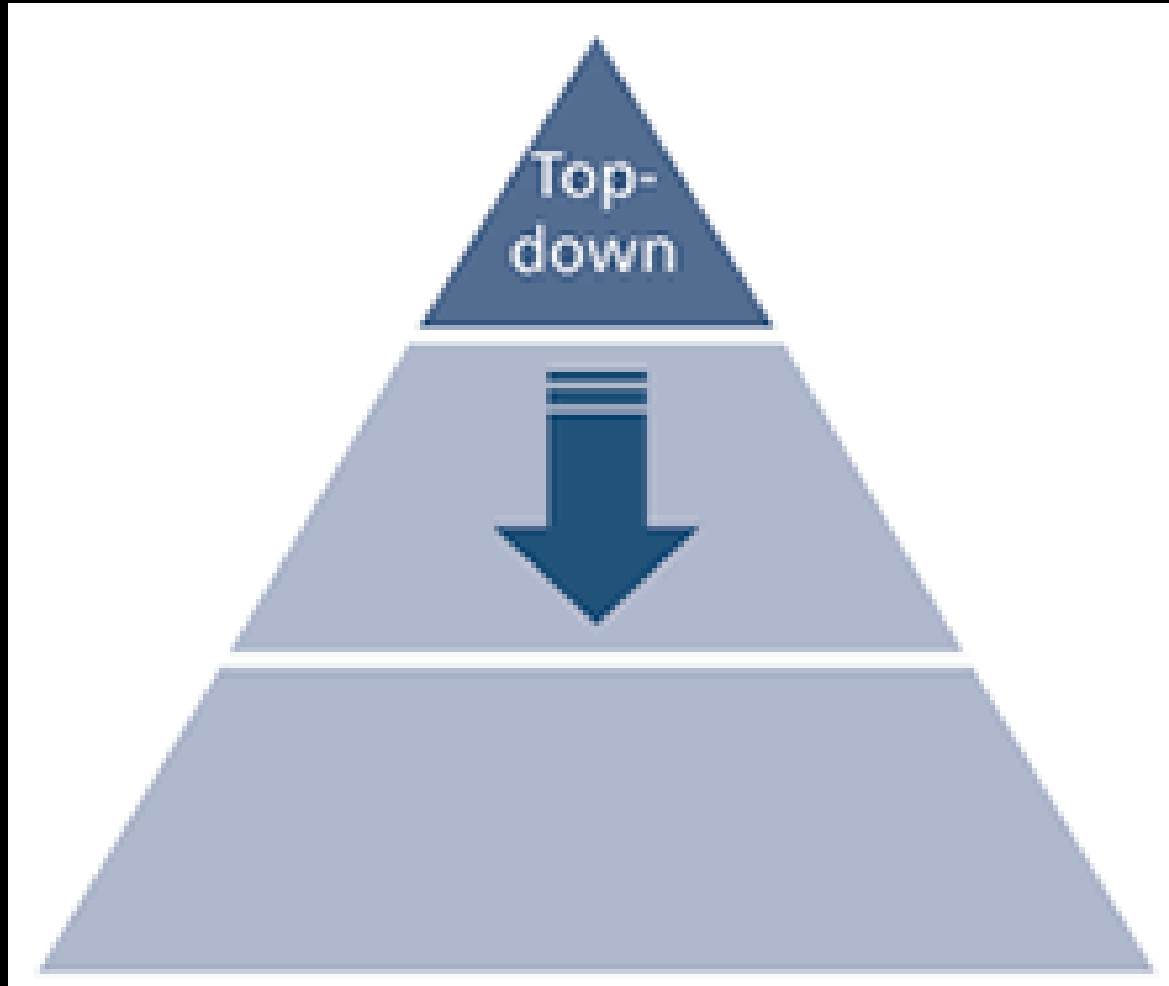
**Believe that person**  
**HAS SOMETHING**  
**THEY NEED**

**How do we make those  
two conditions happen?**

**We have to**  
**ENGAGE**  
**WITH**  
**our Students!**

**We have to  
Involve Our Students  
in everything we do  
“for” them**

# *Top Down*

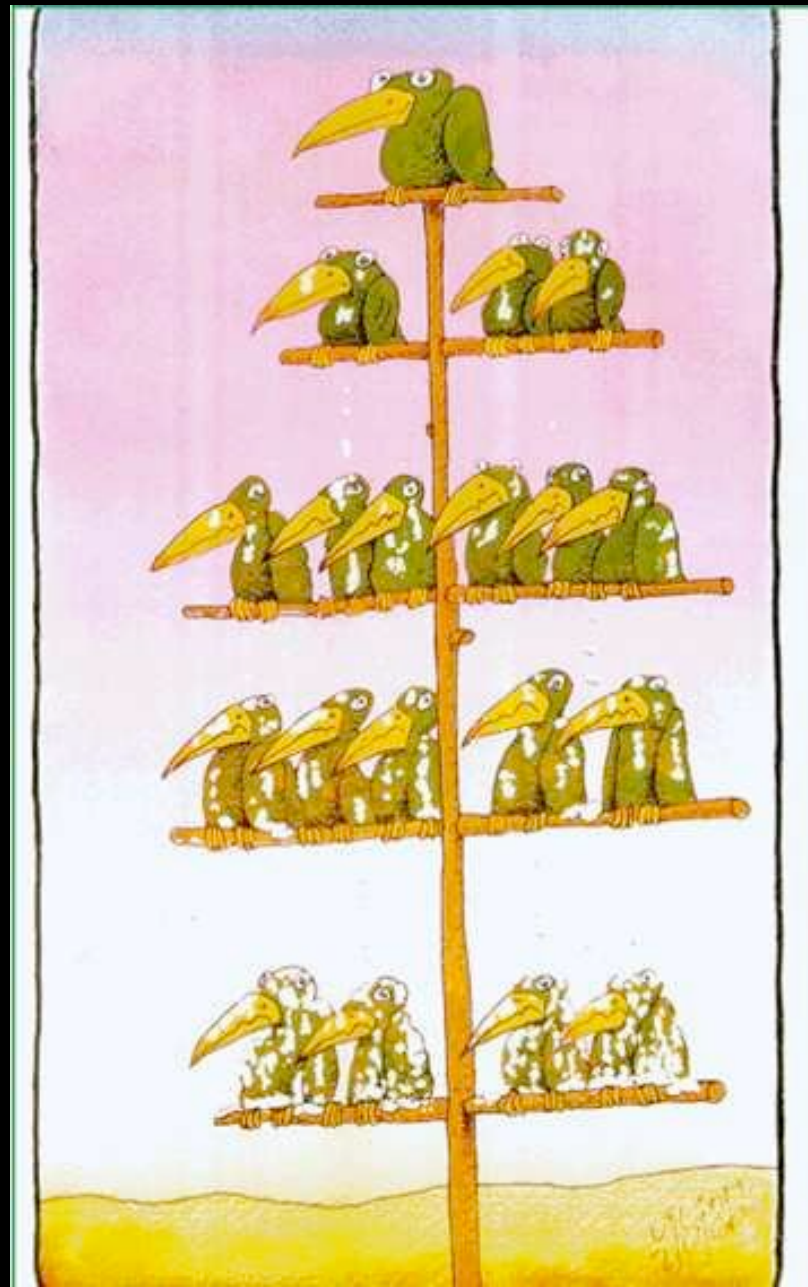


A close-up photograph of a middle-aged man with a balding head and blue eyes, wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and striped tie. He has a wide-eyed, shouting expression with his mouth open. A large white speech bubble with a black border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "You WILL learn this!".

**“You  
WILL  
learn  
this!”**



# *Top Down*



**In the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**Learning can't be dropped on  
kids**

***They have to  
WANT  
To learn***

**In the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**We can no longer just TELL  
students what is right/best**

***We also have to  
ASK them!***

**In the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**We can no longer just  
hand students “content”**

***They have to find it  
WORTHWHILE!***

# ***Bottoms Up!***



***Here's what  
I want***

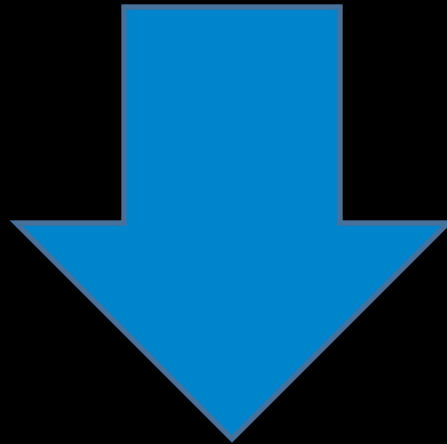




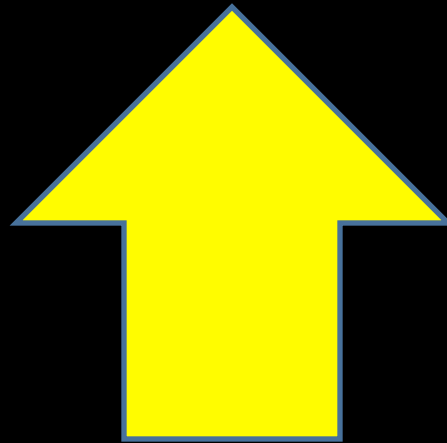


***Ask  
my  
opinion!***

*Top Down*



***BALANCE***



*Bottoms Up*



*Men*

*Women*



*Over 25*



*Under 25*

***To get  
“bottoms-up”  
into our language  
education  
we have to...***

**Give our students  
what **THEY** want**

**“Give us what WE  
like if you want us to  
give you what YOU  
like”**

*- A 13 year old*

**Get our students  
seriously involved  
In designing  
their own learning**

# *Involving Students*

**We have to  
talk to them  
about their learning!**

**We have to  
ask them**



***“Are there  
better ways  
to teach you?”***

**Of course  
there are!!!**

**Especially with  
technology**

**We can:**

**Customize to each  
student's preferences**

**Adapt to each student's  
progress**

**Help each student say  
what he or she wants to**

***The change that is  
EMPOWERING  
to the students...***

*The change that is  
**EMPOWERING**  
to the students...*

*...is often  
**THREATENING**  
to educators*

# *NEW TOOLS*

## ***ARE COMING FAST...***

- **Sped-up video**
- **Picture Search**
- **IM/texting**
- **Blogs**
- **Wikis**
- **Wikipedia**
- **Podcasting**
- **Phone polling**
- **My Space**
- **Handhelds**
- **P2P**
- **Complex Games**
- **Web 2.0**
- **Web 3.0**
- **Augmented Reality**
- **Phone cameras**
- **Phone videos**
- **GPS**
- **You Tube**
- **MoSoSo**



***In fact, too fast to  
master!***

**To use technology  
successfully, we must  
SHARE THE WORK**



**Let Students  
do what they  
do well**

- Use the technology
  - Find content
  - Create

**Let Teachers  
do what they  
do well**

- Evaluate the work
  - Provide context
  - Find quality

It's important that teachers  
***DON'T WASTE THEIR TIME***  
Learning to Create With New Tools,

*(Unless they want to)*

***because...***

**The students can do that!**  
**(and they do want to)**

**“Don’t try to keep  
up with the  
technology  
-- you can’t”**

*- A 14 year old girl*

**“You’ll only look  
stupid.”**

***- A 14 year old girl***



# How Teachers Do Use New Tools

## Problem

## Solution

### Wikipedia

- **Contains some incorrect information**
- **Used as only source**

**BAN**

### IM

- **Distraction in class**
- **Used to get test answers**

**BAN**

### Phone-based cameras

- **Used inappropriately**

**BAN**

*How many of you  
have used **Wikipedia**  
in the language you teach?*

# How Teachers Should Use New Tools

## Assign

## Evaluate

## Teach

### Wikipedia

**Design  
a Wikipedia  
Entry for...**

- *Communication*
- *Journalism*
- *Use of MM*
- *Creativity*

- **Search vs. Research**
- **Fair Use vs. Plagiarism**

# How Teachers Should Use New Tools

## Assign

## Evaluate

## Teach

### Wikipedia

**Design  
a Wikipedia  
Entry for...**

- *Communication*
- *Journalism*
- *Use of MM*
- *Creativity*

- **Search vs. Research**
- **Fair Use vs. Plagiarism**

### IM

**Design a  
Class using  
only IM**

- *Usefulness*
- *Breadth*
- *Depth*
- *Originality*

- **Informal vs. Formal  
Language**

### Phone-based cameras

**Take and  
Photoshop  
To best  
Illustrate...**

- *Communication*
- *Originality*
- *Artistry*
- *Technique*

- **Pictures vs. Words**
- **Appropriate vs. In-  
appropriate**
- **Truth vs.  
Manipulation**

**A really  
important  
tool**



**Almost EVERY student already  
has a powerful computer...  
... in their pocket!**



**We should be  
USING them!**

# *Cell Phones Are*

- **Powerful Computers**
- **Inexpensive**
- **Always in their pocket**
- **Optimized for Communication**
- **Full of Useful Add-ons**  
e.g. Cameras, GPS, internet
- **Easy to download to**
- **Attachable to External input/output**

**Missing? Imagination!**



**And are being used  
for English Learning  
around the world**

**11th April , 2007**

**Europe France :  
The excuses to  
put off learning  
English are as  
many as the  
reasons to learn  
the language.**



**So busy executives will be interested  
to know that English instruction is now  
as close and convenient as their  
mobile phones.**

# **Students Could Be Using Their Cell Phones**

**for Learning:**

**Vocabulary**

**Grammar**

**Poetry**

**Literature**

**Public Speaking**

**Writing**

**Storytelling**

**Culture**

**and Doing:**

**Surveys**

**Polls**

**Match-ups**

**Testing**

**Communication**

**Blogging**

**...and even**

**Assessment!**

**Evaluate Kids**  
***with their tools!***

# **“Open Phone” Tests!!**

# OPEN PHONE TEST

*Rules: 5 min, no laptops*

- 1. Find the current weather in NYC & LA**
- 2. Find the current value of the US dollar in British pounds**
- 3. Find the lead headline in the NY or London Times**
- 4. Find an employer's addresses**
- 5. Find a place you'd want to go**

**“Most of our tests ARE  
open phone tests – you  
guys just don’t know  
it!”**

***– A Student***

**How could we integrate  
cell phones  
into our teaching?**







***Equity?***

**Yes, some have more  
access than others,**

***BUT THEY ARE ALL  
DIGITAL KIDS***

**They are great at  
sharing,  
teaching each other,  
and  
getting what they need**

***And we need to help  
make this happen!***

**Instead of bemoaning  
the “digital divide”,  
*we can be a big part  
of the Solution!***

**If you use technology  
that not all the kids have,  
put them in  
teams and let them  
learn from each other**



***The world our  
kids inhabit  
is already hugely  
different from our own***

**“You look at technology  
as a tool. We look at  
technology as a  
foundation – it’s totally  
integrated into what we  
do.”**

**– a student**



# For 21<sup>st</sup> century kids...



# **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**

Is their  
**BIRTHRIGHT!**

# Sky (b. 2005)



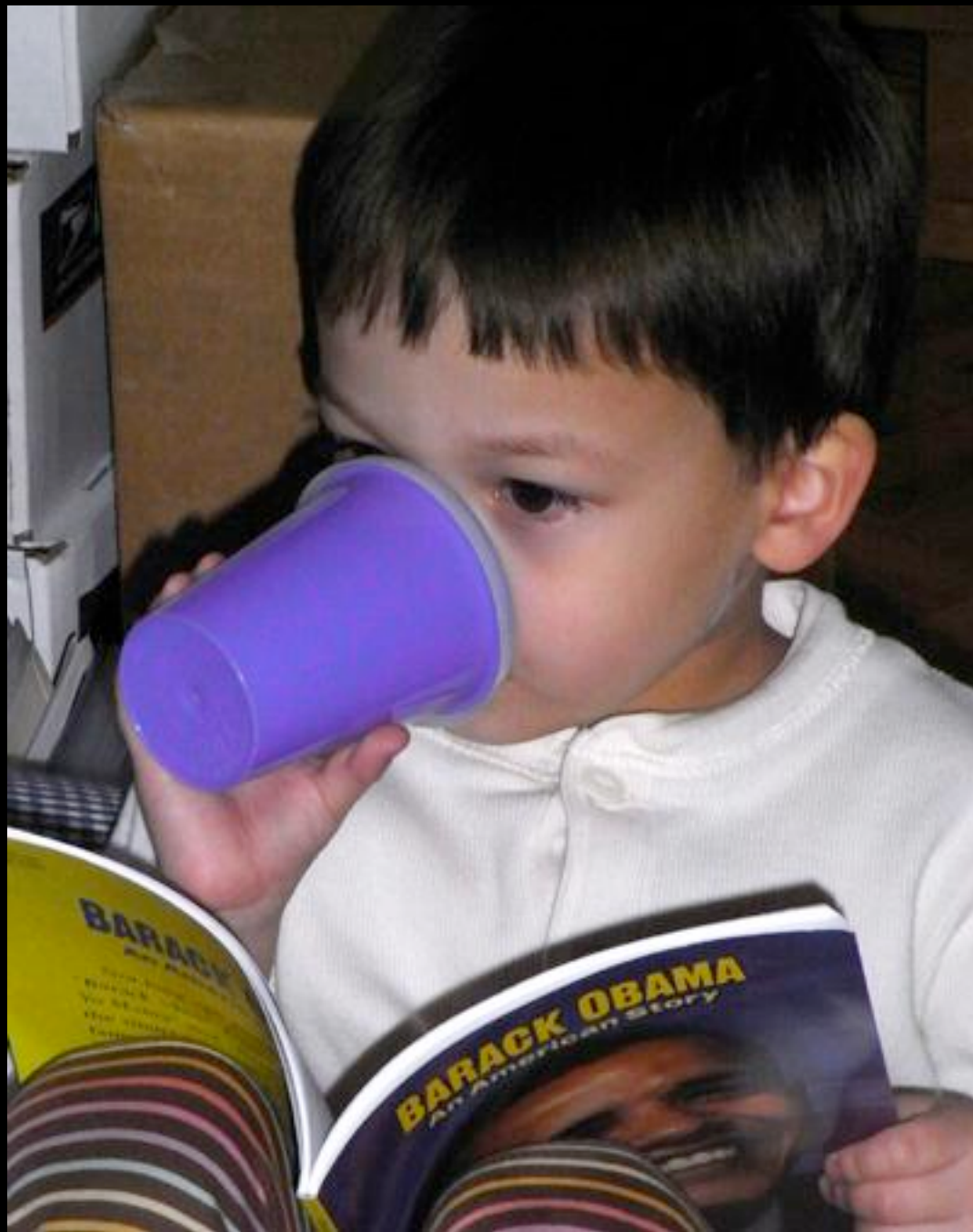














**“Why do we have to  
adapt to the past? Why  
shouldn’t we be taught to  
in different ways!”**

*– A College student*

**“Whenever I go  
to school I have  
to ‘power down’”**

*– a high school student*

***Within the next few years  
we'll all be switching to...***

- **Free, ubiquitous broadband**
- **Small individual devices**
- **Software that teaches and adapts**

**Let them use  
their tools to learn!**

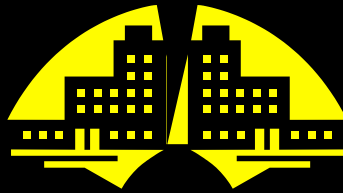
**Kids used to grow  
Up in the dark**













***We were  
the people***

***Who Showed Students  
The Light***

***Today's kids  
Grow up in the light***

**SCHOOL**







***We want to be  
the people***

***who***

***Show Students  
the Light***

***The danger is that...***

***With the very best  
of intentions,***

***We pull students  
out of the light  
into darkness!***

***CAN WE  
TURN ON  
THE LIGHTS  
???***



**There is really  
only  
ONE WAY  
to turn on the  
lights for our kids**

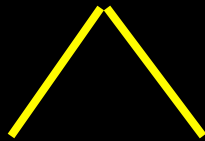
*Make*  
***ENGAGEMENT***  
***OUR #1 GOAL***



**Today, we have to**

*with*

***Engage Students***



**In order to engage them in learning**

**We have to  
Involve Our Students  
in everything we do  
“for” them**

# *Engaging With Students*

**Talk with them**

# ***Engaging With Students***

**Ask them about  
Ideas and technologies  
that relate *for them*  
to what they are learning**

*Making sure  
**every student**  
is engaged and  
has a voice*

**So that our  
teaching is not  
just  
RELEVANT  
but  
REAL**

**Often we don't  
do better...**

**Because we  
Don't ask!**





***Are we afraid  
to ask?***

**To succeed today**

**we have to**  
**PARTNER**  
**with our students**

**We can't be afraid  
to ask our  
students hard  
questions, like:**

**“Am /  
boring  
you?”**

**“What do  
*you* want  
to say?”**

**The teachers**  
***Who Succeed***  
**with 21<sup>st</sup> century**  
**students**



# Are the teachers who:

- ***Listen***
- ***Respect***
- ***Individualize***

**...and let students use  
their technology!**

# *Some Suggestions*

- **Use English scripts of movies or TV that kids know by heart in another language**
- **Use English versions of games kids already play**
- **Ask each kid to write what they want to say in English and let them memorize the translation**

*I'm sure you have better ones*

***And we need to  
get better at***

Sharing  
our  
Successes

**Many teachers are doing  
Great Things!**

***but...***

**So Much  
GOES TO WASTE**

**from being used by only  
One Person,  
In One School**



**If we could just**  
*capture, access and re-use*  
*work already done,*

**we would be**  
***HALFWAY THERE***

***but we don't because...***

**While today's  
Young Learners  
*love to*  
Share...**

**...today's adults  
don't!**

# Digital Immigrants

***“Knowledge is Power”***  
***Keep Good Information to Yourself***

# Digital Natives

***“Sharing is Power”***  
***Be the first to post it***

**How can we  
share best?**

**You Tube**

Broadcast Yourself™



BLOGS

WIKIS

PODCASTS

**21st Century Learners**

**Web 2.0**



# Web 2.0 in Language Teaching

Google Maps



© Stephan Fieck 2007

**If you don't know how,**

***Ask your students!***

**The Five Stages  
of  
Teachers  
and  
Technology**

# 1. Hiding



## 2. Panic





# 3. Acceptance





# 4. Comfort





# 5. Power





***And finally...***

Thank You!

***Get the slides!***

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***www.marcprensky.com***

***www.games2train.com***