

Notes on The Element

Video links- on the right side of this page are 3 videos you can watch (all are great and highly recommended)

http://www.ted.com/speakers/sir_ken_robinson.html

(xiii) Our Element is where the things we love to do and the things we are good at come together...

(xiii) We need to create environments where every person is inspired to grow creatively. We need to make sure all people have the chance to do what they should be doing, to discover the Element in themselves, and in their own way.

(3)...People who had to move to think...

(7) Never underestimate the vital importance of finding early in life the work that for you is play.

(8) If we can each find our Element, we all have the potential for much higher achievement and fulfillment.

(9) We all haven't found it because we have a limited conception of our own capabilities

- We don't understand our own powers- we use only a fraction of them
- We don't understand the holistic, organic system of our capabilities- we see our minds, bodies, feelings, and relationships as independent entities
- We think that life is linear, our capacities decline with age, not that we have a constant potential for renewal

(9-14) Problems with education- One size does not fit all

- Inspiring teachers reach us despite the system, not because of it
 - We value certain types of academic abilities and intelligences- a limited view- we need to radically rethink intelligence
 - There is a hierarchy of subjects
 - Only a few types of assessments are valued

Design of the school system tied to industrial needs of 1800-1900's

The current system puts severe limitation on how teachers teach and how students learn

(21) What is The Element?

- You feel like your most authentic self
- Time passes differently
- Connect with something fundamental to their identity
- When you connect with it, it feels like an epiphany

- No formula to get there
- 2 main features- aptitude and passion.
- 2 main conditions- attitude and opportunity

(24) You love the idea of playing keyboard, if you loved playing keyboards, you'd be doing it...

DIFFERENT FORMS OF INTELLIGENCE

(27) Fleetwood Mac- being pushed out of boarding school, total academic failure, and had no other reference points.

(32) 5 senses, plus 4- sensing temperature, sense of pain, sense of balance, & kinesthetics

(36) NOT how intelligent are you, but HOW ARE you intelligent?
Goes back to plato, Aristotle...enlightenment...the firm belief in reasoning.

(39-40) IQ tests, Terman of Stanford- part of Eugenics-good quotes about working class

(41) SAT creator- eugenics

(43) Experts can't define intelligence...

Gardner's- linguistic, mathematical, kinesthetic, intrapersonal, interpersonal, musical, spatial (added naturalist and existentialist)

(44) Goleman has social and emotional intelligences (has also added ecological)

(46) intelligence has 3 main features

it is diverse-

(49) it is dynamic- the brain is interactive

(50) it is distinctive- like a fingerprint, everyone has own intelligence

(56) CREATIVITY IS A CAPACITY TO DEVELOP, like literacy

(67) Imagination different than creativity. Defines creativity "the process of having original ideas that have value" ...creativity is applied imagination.

(71) creativity helps show us the dynamism of intelligence- but there are techniques that everyone can apply

it's a process, often uses a media that the people love to work with, and needs practical skills to improve

(74) often, people haven't found their medium

getting in the zone...flow

(93) The very thing that would wear me out is fueling them up...you receive more energy than you give...where is that?

FINDING YOUR TRIBE...

(105) What connects a tribe is a common commitment to the thing they feel born to do. Can be collaborators or competitors.

(111) Tribes really about a domain, and a field. Domain refers to the sorts of activities and disciplines that people are engaged in. Field refers to the other people who are engaged in it.

(114) Finding your tribe can have transformative effects on your sense of identity and purpose- they provide validation, inspiration, and 'the alchemy of synergy'.

(121) when tribes gather in the same place, the opportunities for mutual inspiration become intense.

(126) There's a big difference between a great (creative) team and a committee.

(127) BIG difference between being a fan and a tribe. Fan behavior is different form of social affiliation. Sports teams make fans feel as though they are part of a vast, powerful organization. It can create the opposite effect of a tribe.

(133) Barriers to finding your element in 3 circles of constraint- personal, social, and cultural

(136) Personal- feel the fear and do it anyway

(139) IT IS DIFFICULT TO FEEL ACCOMPLISHED WHEN YOU'RE NOT ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING THAT MATTERS TO YOU.

(141) Easier to overcome other's judgements than it is your own self judgement

(143) Groupthink and the tendency to conformity is strong...

(146) All of the above barriers to finding Your element emerge in school.

(150) children have a tendency to mimic...culture is strong influence . asians vs westerners looking at a picture of "a tiger" or a "tiger in a jungle". Chinese philosophy focus on relationships and holism... interdependences...

(152) shifts in social culture usually derive their energy from young people looking for some alternative way of being...

