



MINDCHECK MOTIVATION

Teach How You Want to be Taught

WWW.MINDCHECKMOTIVATION.COM

FALL
2011

- Devotion to
EDUCATION
- Passion for
MOTIVATION
- Love of
MAGIC

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The Shoes Salesmen

I always liked Ed O'Neil who plays the father Jay Pritchett on the sitcom "Modern Family." O'Neil became famous for playing the role of Al Bundy in "Married With Children."

Al Bundy was a great character and always managed to enjoy the simple things in life... quiet, an occasional drink, and some "other" things if you ever watched the show. However, he was troubled with the "Bundy Curse:" He had a wife and kids who disrespected him, friends that left him behind, and a dead-end job as a women's shoes salesman.

Thinking about Al Bundy brought an old story to mind that can be applied to the classroom.

The story starts out with two competing shoe salesmen. Each salesman was a master at his profession and could outsell anyone.

However, one day business started to slow down. The owner of the shoe company decided that they needed to expand their customer base in order to get more orders.

After much thought and research, the owner sent both men to a secluded area in the Amazon River basin in South America.

After two weeks hiking through the rugged jungle, battling bugs as big as their fists, and nearly drowning several times, they finally encountered a string of villages. In each village the two men were welcomed and were treated well. There they observed the villagers' everyday life and customs.

After some time, the salesman reported back to their boss.

The first salesman said:

"There is no potential here - nobody wears shoes."

The second salesman reported back and said:

"There is massive potential here - nobody wears shoes."



As educators, do we sometimes act as the first salesman?

Do we have trouble with: positive vs. negative thinking, opportunities vs. problems, and

benefits vs. disadvantages?

Do we think that some students have no potential because of their lack of knowledge or do we see that lack of knowledge as an opportunity for them to learn?

As educators, we need to think positive and not dwell on the background of students. I've seen it far too many times in the "real world."

This has an adverse effect in the classroom and more often than not, teacher morale.

Each student has massive potential, however we need to foster it, not dampen it based on their background. Trust me, this is not easy to do. It is a paradigm shift of some sort (especially if you are in alternative education like myself).

With this said, remember: we can not change where a student came from, but we can certainly change where a student is going.



MAGIC
in the
CLASSROOM

Try this trick in
your classroom,
next meeting,
or with friends.

*“Toleration is the
greatest gift of the
mind; it requires the
same effort of the
brain that it takes
oneself to balance on
a bicycle.”*

-Helen Keller

Floating Metal

Effect:

You make a paperclip float on water after others tried and failed

Preparation:

You will need two paperclips and a glass of water.

Method:

- 1) Ask a person to try to make a paperclip float in a glass of water. Encourage them to try as many different techniques as possible. No matter how gentle they try to place the paperclip on the water, it will always sink.
- 2) Take the second paperclip and bend it into an “L” shape. Balance the first paperclip on the bottom of the “L.”
- 3) Gently and slowly lower the “L” shaped paperclip along with the **balanced** paperclip into the water. When the balanced paperclip comes in contact with the water it will float!

The Secret?

When your participant tries to float the paper clip, they break the *surface tension* of the water. Surface tension is the same reason why some insects can “walk” on water or you can fill a glass with water to where the water is slightly visible over the edge. When you gently place the balanced paperclip onto the water via the “L” shaped paperclip, the surface tension is not broken!





Word Puzzles– Say What You See

r/e/a/d/i/n/g

sleeping

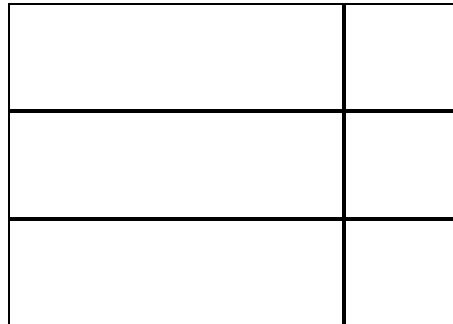
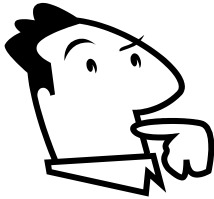
job

wear

long

Critical Thinking Puzzle

*Answers to all
puzzles are on
Page 4.*



How many rectangles can you form out of the above diagram.

HINT: Don't forget a square is also a rectangle.

Check Your Thought



How many of each animal did Moses take on the ark with him?

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

January 18, 2012: Joe will be presenting “*Creating Magic: Success in the Classroom and Beyond*” to the students and guests of the La Roche College Education Department.



April 28, 2012: Joe will represent Mindcheck Motivation in Tough Mudder PA. Tough Mudder PA is an 11 mile race with more than 20 obstacles. This will be a true test of the motivation of the mind as well as the body.



May 30– June 2, 2012: Joe will be the opening keynote speaker at the Correctional Education Association (CEA) Region 1 Conference in Cape May, NJ presented by CEA– New Jersey. He will also be presenting his workshop “*M.A.G.I.C.: Motivational Attention Getters In the Classroom.*” Joe is excited to help CEA– New Jersey promote the event via social networking and media outlets.



Transforming Lives

MINDCHECK PUZZLES

WORD PUZZLES

Reading between the lines

Sleeping on the job

Long underwear

CRITICAL THINKING PUZZLE

18

Whole bock, six individuals, three horizontal pairs, four vertical pairs, two vertical triplets, and two large blocks (each 2/3 of the diagram)

CHECK YOUR THOUGHT

Zero.

Moses didn't have an ark,
Noah did!