

CONCLUSION NOTES of YOUTH CHANGE WORKSHOP: Seattle May 2011

I would like to commend the presenter, Ms. Wells, for her efficient and on the mark presentation. Managing a large group of educators is a challenge, especially in a tight space. In all honesty, my attendance was more motivated by earning the credit for re-certification rather than thirst for more knowledge on issues that are essentially beaten to death. The result was actually an epiphany experience.

Included in my assignment papers are some of my notes. These notes reveal critical points of enlightenment resulting from the workshop. Actually substantially more than I had expected. The pre-test, post-test, and listing of new strategies might seem academic, and yet it is brilliant to crystallize practical application of the workshop content.

The two groups of students that I listed in the pre-test really ARE the primary challenge to my current assignment and I have many new practical strategies on how to approach them collectively and individually. Teaching an old dog new tricks is quite an accomplishment, my kudos to you!

If I were to isolate what is most beneficial about the experience it would be seeing the hand outs presented and their absolute practicality. They are perfect for my arsenal of enlightenment that I use to confront the incomplete and often damaged paradigms of my most challenging students. With the majority of my students being high school, I always feel a sense of urgency to have an positive impact before they are out the door forever. It is not that I haven't been effective, I have a life-career of confirmation that I have been. However, I just wish I had this workshop at least 30 years ago, my impact would have been much more efficient and certainly much broader in scope. Cannot change the past, so I will focus on the last two years of my journey before retirement. Yes.....only two or MAX, three years until graduation for me!

Thank you sincerely for your presentation and improving my life as an educator and counselor.

Very best regards,



Joseph John Keller