

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

Category: Study of John Dewey

Sub-category: /

Code: JD 01-003

Title: The Educational Thought of John Dewey and The G.T. Vision

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Summary/ Abstract: This PPT is a talk delivered in December 2016 to parents and teachers of G.T. College. It gives an overview of John Dewey's life and works with particular focus on Dewey's *Pedagogic Creed* and its inspiration to *G.T. Education Manifesto*.

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Pre-G1 Parenting Course (3)

The Educational Thought of John Dewey and The G.T. Vision

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22/12/2016

Induction Question

Which is more Important?

- | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------|
| ● Physical | or | Mental |
| ● Physical Resources | or | Ideas |
| ● Money | or | Ideals |



Induction Question

20 years ago, G.T. was set up:

In 1896, John Dewey founded the first laboratory school to start a new education; it changed the education system of the USA. A hundred years has passed and we now establish GT school in Hong Kong, to further his vision.....

Induction Question

20 years ago, G.T. was set up:

1896年，著名教育哲學家杜威 (John Dewey) 在美國創辦首間實驗學校 (Laboratory School)，推行教育改革，使美國教育制度全面改觀。一百年後的今天，我們在香港成立優才學校，正是承繼這個改革教育的使命和傳統.....

Induction Question

The Lesson:

Money spent

People die

Organizations
perish

Landscape
changes

but IDEAS SURVIVE

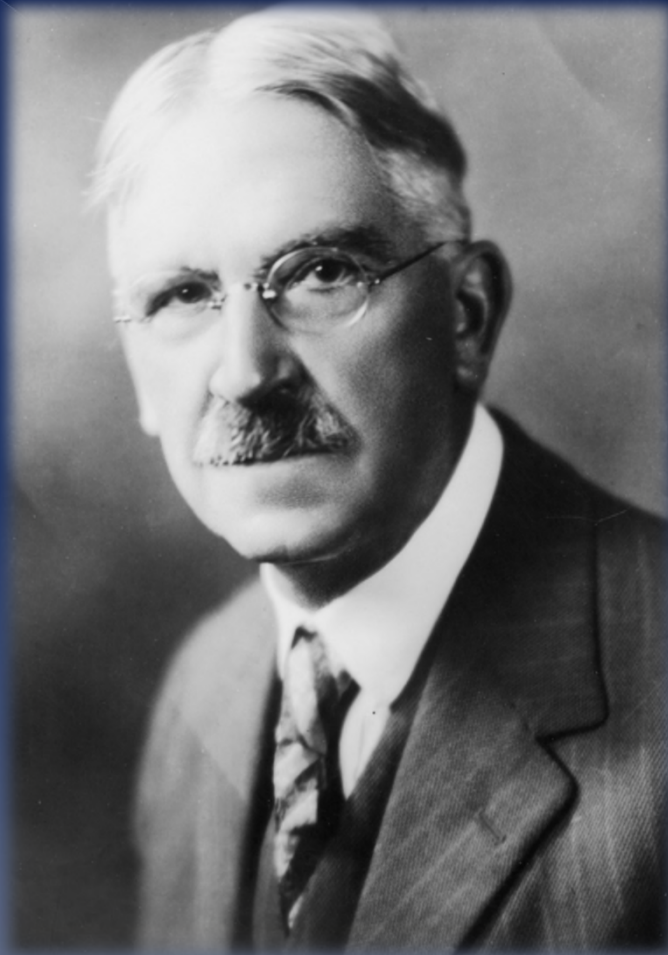
Talk Outline

- (A)** Who is John Dewey?
- (B)** Dewey's Pedagogic Creed (1896)
- (C)** The Dewey Impact
- (D)** From Dewey to G.T.
- (E)** G.T.'s Education Manifesto (2006)



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Born in Vermont, USA in 1859



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Parents:

Father

Farmer / Grocer

Mother

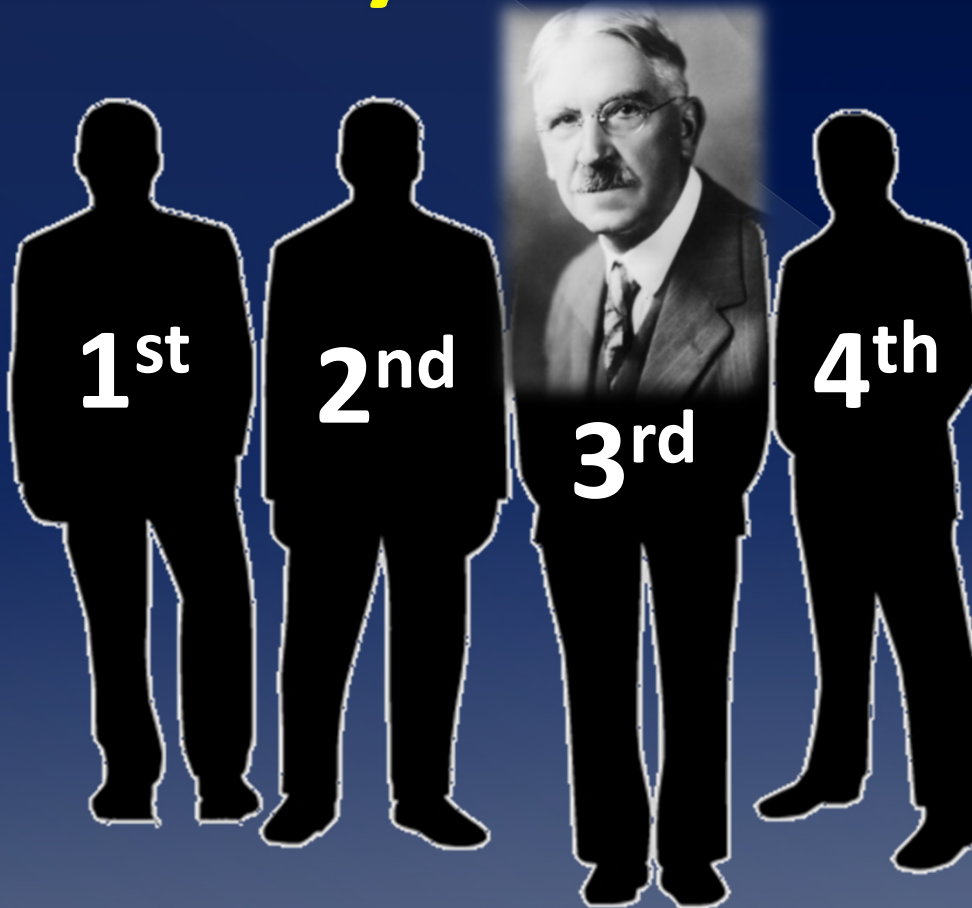
Middle Class

- ◎ Christian / Evangelical Church
- ◎ Care for children education



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Family:



- Four boys
- John the 3rd child
- Book worm Boys
- Gifted
(entered college at 15)

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Adolescence:

- ◎ Intensely Religious
- ◎ Moralistic
- ◎ Seeks truth / justice in ones faith



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

College Years (1875 – 1879)

Influences by Ideas of

Auguste Comte (Sociology)

Thomas Huxley (Physiology)

Immanuel Kant (Philosophy)

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

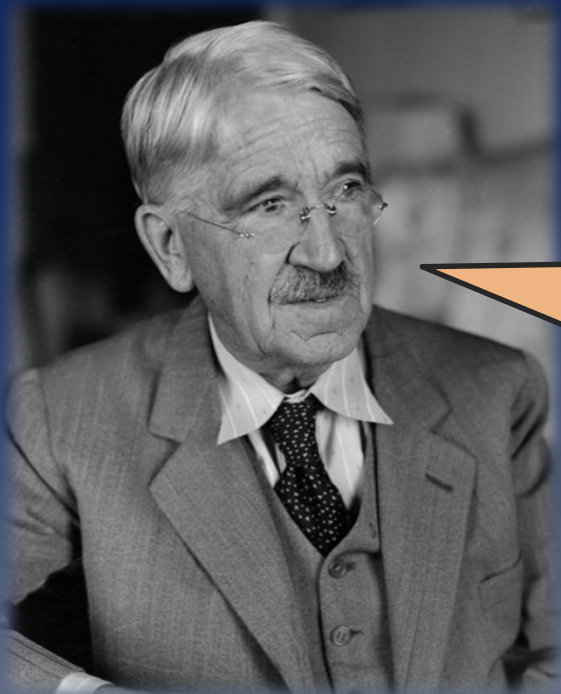
The Lost Years (1879 – 1882)

- ◎ From Lost Years to Great Years
- ◎ No job, no route (1879)
- ◎ Teaching in Oil City (1880)
- ◎ Intellectual Liberation (1880)

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Feeling of Harmony (1880)

- ☉ The soul-searching process led to a “revelation” feeling of finding himself!



“Everything
that’s here
is here.”

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Graduate School (1882 – 1884)



- Studies philosophy and psychology.
- Finishes Ph.D in 2 years!

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Michigan Years (1884 – 1894)

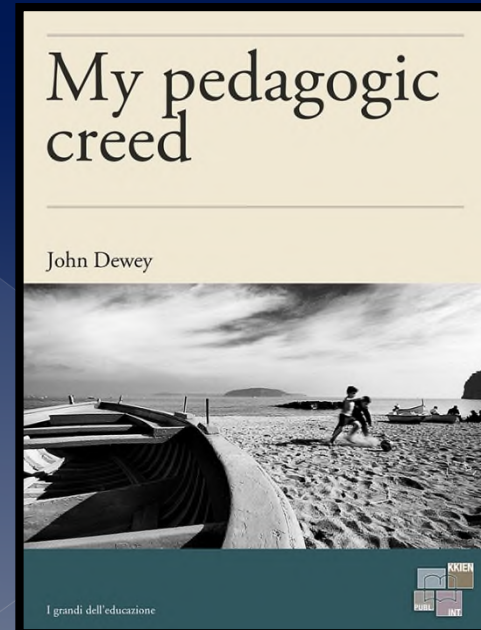
- ◎ *The New Psychology* (1884)
- ◎ *Psychology* (1888)
- ◎ Dewey in Love (1884 – 1886)



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Chicago Years (1894 – 1904)

- ◎ Headhunted as Department Head
- ◎ Starts Laboratory School
- ◎ *My Pedagogic Creed* (1896)
- ◎ President of APA (1899)



(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Columbia Years (1904 – 1930)

- ◎ President of APHA (1905)
- ◎ *How We Think* (1910)
- ◎ *Democracy and Education* (1916)
- ◎ *Experience and Nature* (1925)

A total of 38
volumes!

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

International Tour

1919

- Lectures in Japan

1919 – 1921

- Lectures in China

1924

- Visits Turkey

1928

- Visits USSR

1937

- Visits Mexico

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Personal

1886

- Marries Alice Chipman

1895

- Starts Dewey School with Mrs. Dewey

1927

- Death of Alice

1946

- Second marriage

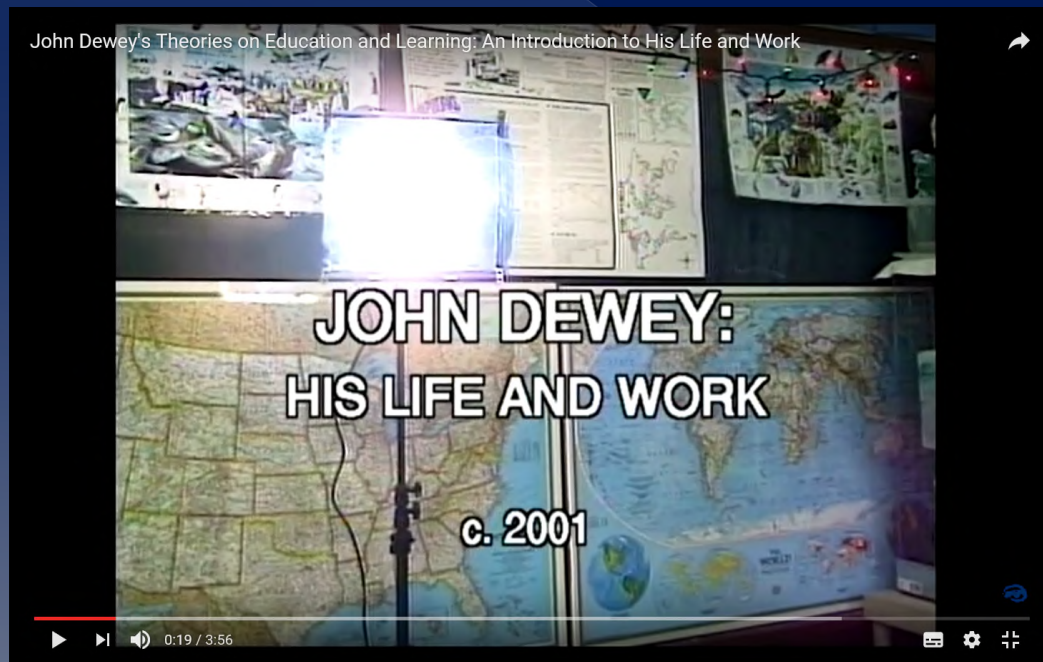
1952

- Dies in NYC (age 92)

(A) John Dewey — Life & Work

Video (1)

John Dewey's Theories on Education and Learning: An Introduction to His Life and Work
(3'56) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGjSMqwIP3E>



(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

A. Background

“.....his Chicago period. Here is Dewey passionately, even flamboyantly, confident of his vision of the nature, purpose, and inevitable progress of education. At once a personal declaration and a revolutionary manifesto, it dispenses with supporting arguments or documentation.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

B. The American Society in Rapid Change

- ◎ Industrial Revolution
- ◎ Mass production & Urbanization
- ◎ Capitalists vs. Workers
- ◎ Social ills



(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

C. Source of Academic Ideas

(1) *The New Psychology* (1884)

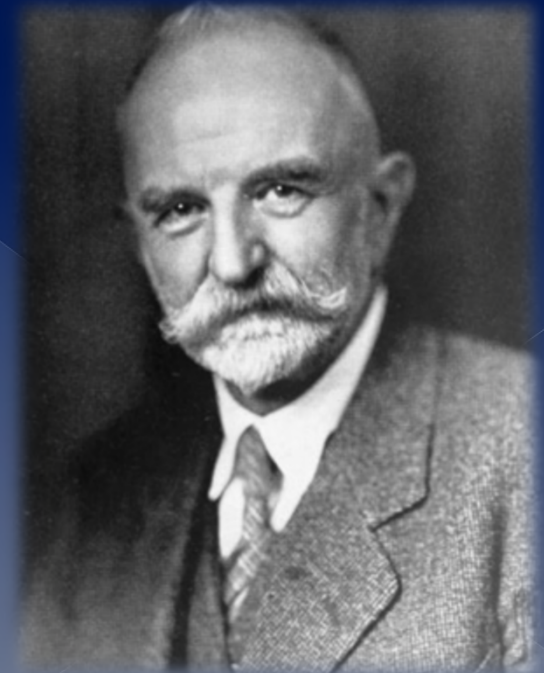
- ◎ Man with consciousness and purpose.
- ◎ Concrete experience and psychic life.
- ◎ From physiology to psychology.

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

C. Source of Academic Ideas

(2) Sociological Side

- ◎ Influenced by **Herbert Mead** (1863 – 1931)
- ◎ Symbolic interactionism



(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

C. Source of Academic Ideas

(3) Social Reform

© Influenced by **Jane Addams** (1860 – 1935)



- Social Reformer
- Peace Nobel Laureate (1931)

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

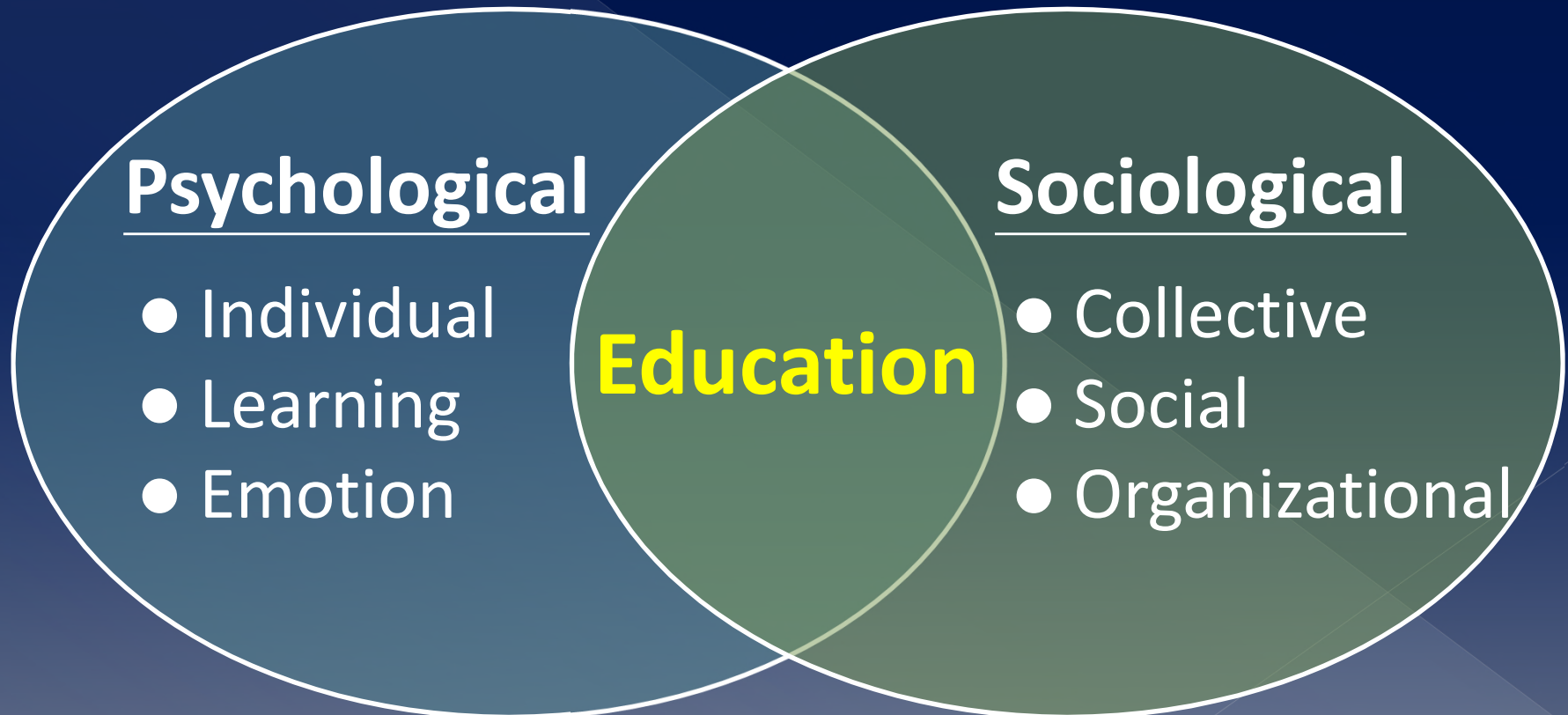
Article I: What Education is Education is.....

“..... shaping the individual's powers, saturating his consciousness, forming his habits, training his ideas, and arousing his feelings and emotions.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article I: What Education is

Two sides



(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article I: What Education is

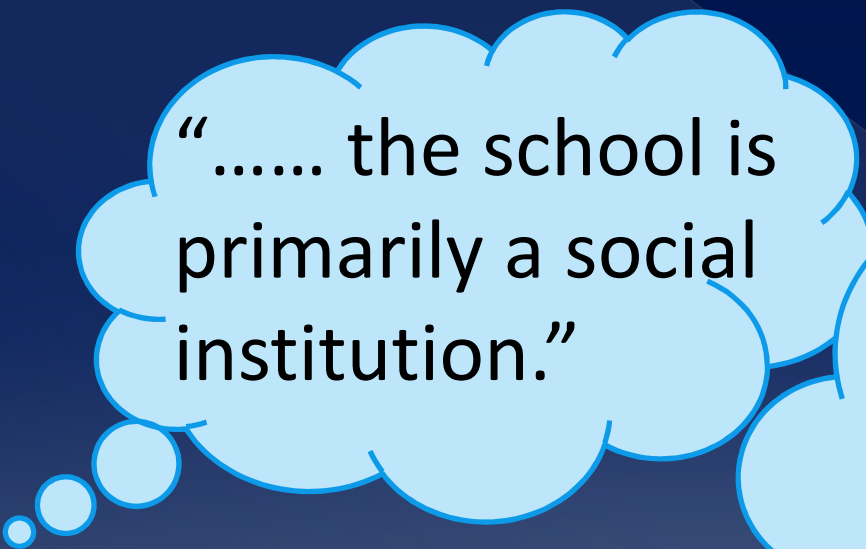
Education is living.....

“I believe that education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living.”

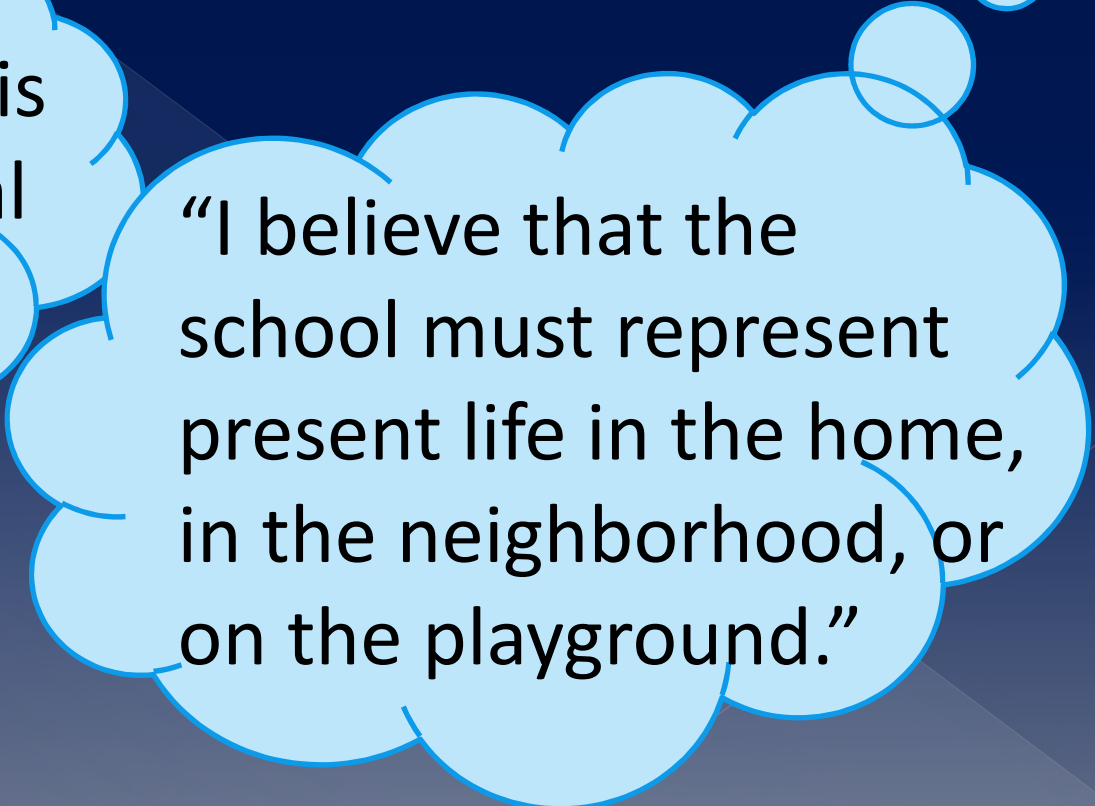
(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article II: What School is

The School is a social institution.

A light blue thought bubble with a dark blue outline and three smaller circles leading to it from the bottom left.

“..... the school is primarily a social institution.”

A large light blue thought bubble with a dark blue outline and several smaller circles leading to it from the top right.

“I believe that the school must represent present life in the home, in the neighborhood, or on the playground.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article II: What School is

School should simplify life.

“I believe that the school, as an institution, should simplify existing social life; should reduce it, as it were, to an embryonic form. Existing life is so complex.....”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article II: What School is

Role of teacher — as facilitator.

“The teacher is not in the school to impose certain ideas or to form certain habits in the child, but is there as a member of the community to select the influences.....”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article III: Subject – Matter

“Language is the device
for communication.”

“Education is life.”

with:

- Science
- Art
- Culture

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article III: Subject – Matter

Education as reconstruction of experience.

“I believe finally, that education must be conceived as a continuing reconstruction of experience; that the process and the goal of education are one and the same thing.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article IV: Method

Sympathetic Observation

“I believe that only through the continual and sympathetic observation of childhood's interests can the adult enter into the child's life and see what it is ready for.....”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article IV: Method

Active Participation

“I believe that the active side precedes the passive in the development of the child nature; that expression comes before conscious impression; that the muscular development precedes the sensory; that movements come before conscious sensations.....

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article IV: Method

Active Participation

.....I believe that consciousness is essentially motor or impulsive; that conscious states tend to project themselves in action."

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article V: School & Social Progress

Social Reform

“I believe that education is the fundamental method of social progress and reform.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

Article V: School & Social Progress

Society's Purpose through Education.

“..... through education society can formulate its own purposes, can organize its own means and resources, and thus shape itself with definiteness and economy in the direction in which it wishes to move.”

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

In summary,

- (1) For Dewey, education is shaping of individual's power into social resources for humanity.
- (2) Dewey sees education as empowering the individual.
- (3) He is aware of modern industrial society and democracy and any training will be obsolete in 20 years.

(B) Dewey's Pedagogic Creed

In summary,

- (4) Dewey revolted against the school of thought that school is for the preparation of future life.
- (5) He took education as living itself.
- (6) Education as an end in itself.



(C) The Dewey Impact

Dewey's ideas are revolutionary.....

- (1) Education is life, not for preparing future life (Against received Wisdom).
- (2) Education is not for memorization of bookish academic subjects (Greek, Latin, Science, Literature, Math, Bible) but for knowledge in use.
- (3) Learning by doing, not by listening.

(C) The Dewey Impact

Dewey's Educational ideas are integrative and encompassing.

Psychology



Sociology



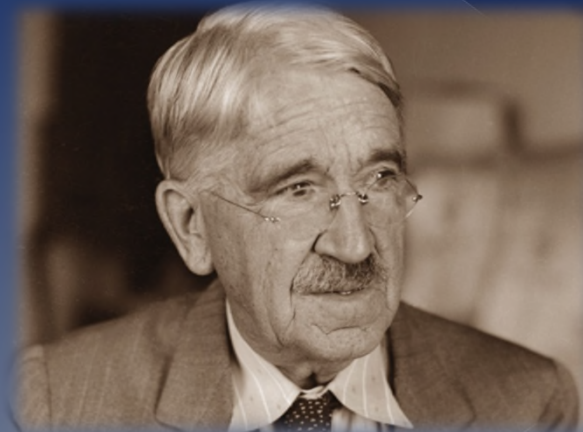
Western
Philosophy

- Rousseau (1712 – 1778)
- Froebel (1782 – 1852)
- Herbart (1776 – 1841)



(C) The Dewey Impact

- (1) His educational thought dominates 20th Century thinking.
- (2) He initiates New Education → Progressive Education in USA.
- (3) Dewey affects the whole world.



(C) The Dewey Impact

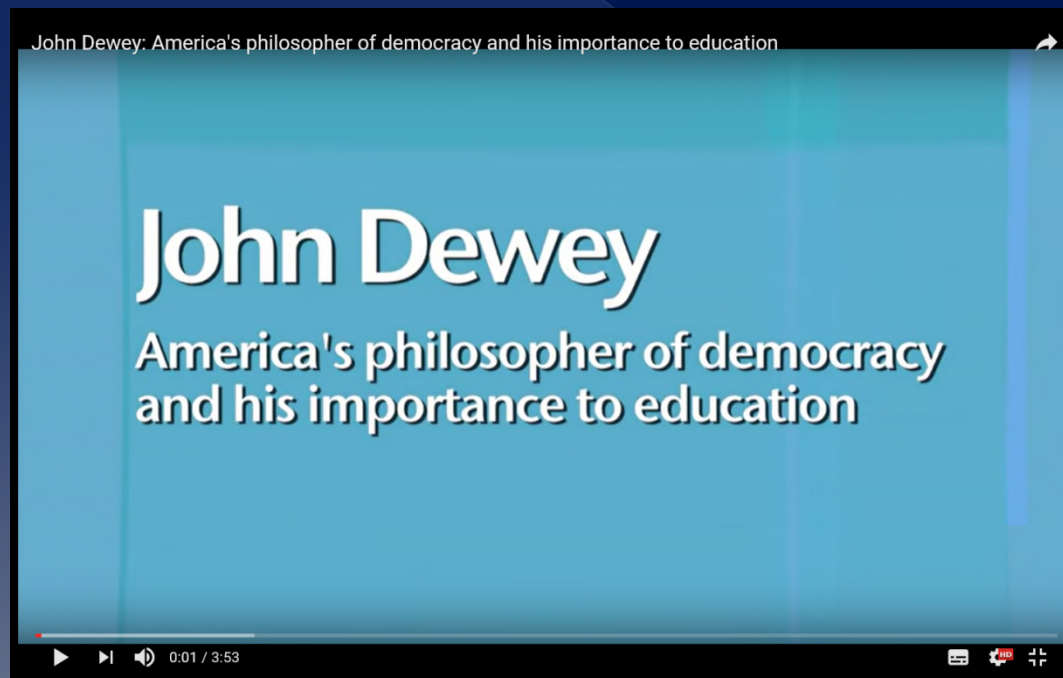
- (4) His ideas are taught in schools of education.
- (5) It influenced generations of teachers and educators.
- (6) It is THE PARADIGM.
- (7) I pick it up in 1980s in Hong Kong.

(C) The Dewey Impact

Video (2)

John Dewey: America's philosopher of democracy and his importance to education

(3'53) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMh1LYuZ3B4>



(D) From Dewey to G.T.

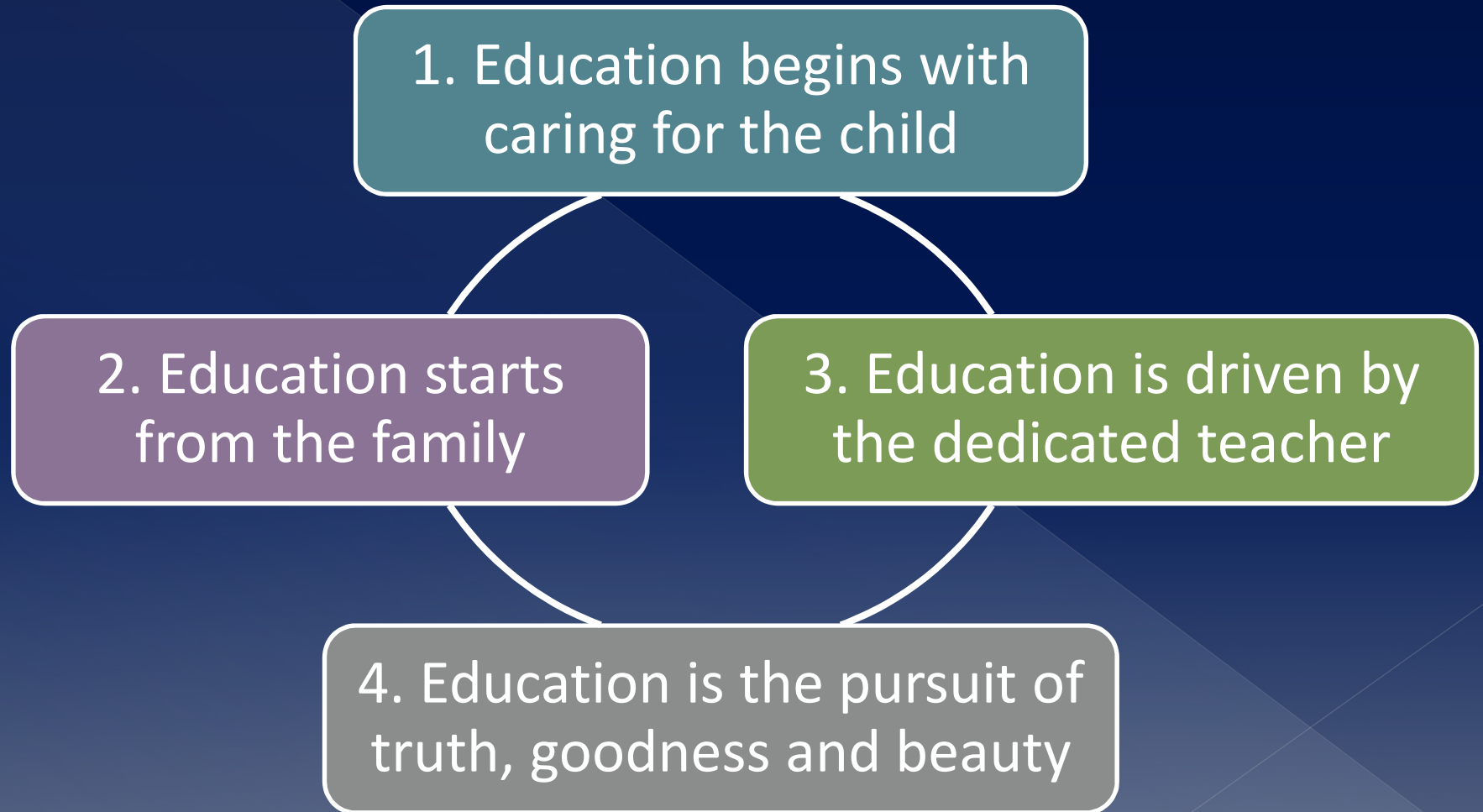
Educational Ideas	Traditional Education	Dewey Education	G.T. Reform
(1) Students should follow instructions	✓	✗	Autonomy
(2) A silent class	✓	✗	Interaction
(3) Students have to listen to teachers' exposition	✓	✗	Participation

(D) From Dewey to G.T.

Educational Ideas	Traditional Education	Dewey Education	G.T. Reform
(4) Benchmark of academic results	✓	✗	Individual differences
(5) Teachers have to be responsible and caring	✓	✓	Delightful



(E) G.T.'s Education Manifesto



(E) G.T.'s Education Manifesto

5. Education requires interaction between teachers and students

6. Encourage the child, nurture initiative and construct knowledge

7. The curriculum should be foundational, edge-cutting, flexible and in the knowledge frontier

8. Encourage the child to think, self-learn, and create

(E) G.T.'s Education Manifesto

9. Enjoyable, satisfying and positive education

10. The child has multiple intelligences

11. Teacher professionalism

12. Education is learning the harmonious coexistence between people & people, people & things, and with nature

(E) G.T.'s Education Manifesto

13. Teach the child to know one self and to pursue one's ideals

14. University, secondary and primary education have different objectives

15. Build the school as a harmonious and sharing community

16. Build the school's positive culture

END