

Soon We'll Be Living in the Future: Another Brick in the Wall

- 1) Have any of you ever felt like you were “a square peg being forced into a round hole” at school – expected to deal with something you simply weren’t equipped to handle? What would you have done differently had you been the instructor in that situation?
- 2) While you don’t need to name specific figures – you can, but it’s not required – which **types** of teachers have provided you with the best educational experiences, and how did they do so? What about those experiences distinguishes them from your other ones, and why were you able to respond successfully to them?
- 3) Which elements of the current school experience would you retain, and what would you scrap? What would you replace the scrapped components with?
- 4) Should students take the same classes every day, or should we alter our schedule? What sort of schedule would you propose?
- 5) How would you design a homework policy? What’s a fair amount of time for instructors to use to extend their teachings?
- 6) How should we fund the construction of new schools and repairs to existing ones?
- 7) How will we entice competent teachers to work in more challenging urban or rural environments? How do we convince people to be instructors to begin with?
- 8) Should children be allowed to be taught via home-schooling?
- 9) How should we deal with uncommonly gifted students? Is it better to place people on Honors tracks or to keep them in standard college-prep courses? What’s the benefit of each approach?
- 10) How should we treat our students as thinkers, as learners, and as human beings? Should we take a unified (teach everyone the same way) or differentiated approach to our content?
- 11) Should we push students to their limits in order to move those limits and expand their horizons, or pull back and let them learn at a pace of their choosing, trusting them to determine how they’ll learn best?
- 12) Should students have a role in shaping classroom expectations and discipline?
- 13) Should we mainstream students with special needs, second-language learners, etc., or keep them separate from others?
- 14) How should we provide opportunities for success in an English class for students who don’t write well? How about students who don’t read well?
- 15) How well are we encouraging cognitive versatility – practical knowledge, applicable knowledge, creative knowledge, and opportunities to apply each – under our current educational system? What changes should we strive to make while moving forward?