

TED 400
Introduction to Education

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What are you going to be when you
grow up?

A careful analysis of who you are and where you are going can help you determine the extent of your commitment to teaching. Are you going to teach for a few years or for 40 years? Let's look at some of the advantages and disadvantages of teaching.

Working With People

THE GOOD NEWS:

- Nearly the entire day is spent in human interaction.
- Children are funny, spontaneous and will make you laugh and cry.
- Your life will be enriched by diversity.

Working With People

THE BAD NEWS:

- Nearly the entire day is spent in human interaction and getting alone time is impossible.
- Even though you adore children, there are times they might get on your nerves.
- Being around children all day can have weird effects on your adult life. "I knew something was wrong when I began to skip out of school."
- Teaching in diverse settings is challenging.
- You can be surrounded by children and still feel alone sometimes.

Recognition Of Your Effort &
Competence

THE GOOD NEWS:

- The smell of the chalkboard, the roar of the crowd...
- Sometimes students will even let you know by telling you how much they appreciate you and your abilities. "You're my 3rd favorite teacher."
- Often recognition comes in the way students engage with you in class and you'll be able to tell from their nonverbal messages that they love your classroom.

Recognition Of Your Effort &
Competence

THE BAD NEWS:

- You go to the lunchroom to share your thrilling lesson with colleagues and they look at you like you're high.
- Positive recognition is infrequent in teaching and the profession is isolating at times.



Intellectual Stimulation

THE GOOD NEWS:

- You'll fall in love with all kinds of subject matter and learn so much.
- As we've seen from our "memorable teachers," sometimes a passion for a subject is infectious.
- Some teachers use their extended vacation times to travel and enhance their content area knowledge.
- Professional books and organizations abound and you can find like-minded people by accessing these intellectual communities.

Intellectual Stimulation

THE BAD NEWS:

- This is my 20th year to teach Introduction to Education. Teaching can involve a lot of repetition. Be careful or excitement can be replaced by boredom.
- When you love a subject it can be frustrating when students don't feel the same way towards it.

Creativity

THE GOOD NEWS:

- For years there has been a debate as to whether teaching is a science or an art.
- Unless you just adore teacher's guides with mass-produced lesson plans, you will end up developing what you teach and how it is delivered. It is a profession that truly demands creativity.

"I love to teach as a painter loves to paint, as a musician loves to play, as a singer loves to sing, as a runner rejoices in running a race. Teaching is an art - an art so great and so difficult to master that a person can spend a long life at it without realizing much more than their limitations and mistakes. But the main aim of my happy days has been to become a good teacher. Just as every architect wishes to be a good architect and every professional poet strives toward perfection."

Creativity

THE BAD NEWS:

- As much as there is to say about creativity, there is a tremendous amount of routine as well. There is a lot of clerical work, child control, housekeeping, and announcements.
- The 3 Rs might be ritual, repetition, and routine.

"Paper work, paper work. The nurse wants the health cards. Another teacher wants one of your report cards. The principal wants to know how many math books you have. Somebody else wants to know if you can come to a meeting on such and such a day. Forms to fill out: Would you please give a breakdown of boys and girls in your class; would you please say how many students you have in reading grade such and such. Forms, messages - all day long."

Social Concern

THE GOOD NEWS:

- You can touch a life and make a difference.
- Teaching gives you the opportunity to touch a young life and make it better.
- Each classroom is filled with individuals with different intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs.
- You can become an important part of taking away their pain and struggle and replacing it with self-esteem and opportunity.
- Most teachers feel the same way you do.

Social Concern

THE BAD NEWS:

- You might become the tarnished idealist.
- There are plenty of people who want to kill your idealism.
- The first few years of teaching are frustrating.
- There is an overemphasis on discipline, standards, and assessment and sometimes it kills the spirit.
- Teacher-student conflict can also steal idealism.
- There is a lot of student apathy, bureaucratic red tape, and a lack of resources.

Money Matters And Other Benefits

THE GOOD NEWS:

- You can make a good living being a teacher. Salaries vary from state to state and even from district to district.
- June, July, and August
- Summer lends itself to a second job if you need it.

Money Matters And Other Benefits

THE BAD NEWS:

- Teacher salaries still lag behind many other professionals.
- Long vacations mean long periods without income.
- Picking up side jobs can be exhausting.

The Prestige Factor

THE GOOD NEWS:

- “I’m proud to be a teacher!”
- Most people recognize the critical importance of being a teacher.
- Polls always rank us high in regards to prestige.

The Prestige Factor

THE BAD NEWS:

- “I don’t get no respect!”
- Society has a pathology towards schooling and teaching.
- Everybody has an opinion for you.
- Some people measure success by the size of the check.
- Some people still think that “Those who can’t teach.”