

The Dilemma Language

CONTROL DILEMMAS

1. Whole child vs. child as student (REALMS)
Is the school responsible for developing a wide range of needs and skills or only for intellectual and cognitive areas?
2. Teacher vs. child control of TIME
Should teachers or students control when activities are begun and how long they take?
3. Teacher vs. child control of OPERATIONS
Should teachers or students control the behavior in various curricular domains?
4. Teacher vs. child control of STANDARDS
Should teachers or students act, maintain and/or monitor standards of performance?

THE TEACHER'S ROLE

WHAT TO TEACH:

(Bureaucratic, functional or independent)

Should the teacher follow a prescribed curriculum, adapt and interpret content to fit the situation, or construct and create new curricular content?

HOW TO TEACH:

(Bureaucratic, functional or independent)

Should the teacher conduct instruction according to some outside standard, adapt the ideas imposed from without suiting the situation or choose lesson process independently?

CURRICULUM DILEMMAS

1. Knowledge as public vs. personal
Should schools emphasize a set body of facts and skills or experiential knowledge that is useful to the learner?
2. Knowledge is product vs. process
Should the curriculum be organized around content or desirable skills and processes?
3. Knowledge as given vs. problematical
Should knowledge be given by the teacher or discovered by the learner?
4. Intrinsic vs. extrinsic motivation
Should the motivation to learn come from within the student or result from teacher action?
5. Learning is holistic vs. molecular
Is learning better presented in an integrated way or in pieces or parts until the whole is known?
6. Each child is unique vs. member of a category
In selecting knowledge and organizing for instruction, should the focus be on differences or shared characteristics?

7. Learning is social vs. individual
Should there be interactions between persons who are learning or should the interactions be limited to the student and the material or the student and the teacher?
8. Learner as person vs. client
Should the teacher relate to the student in an informal and personal manner or maintain a formal and detached relationship?

SOCIETAL DILEMMAS

1. Childhood continuous vs. unique and separate
Is childhood a time to prepare for adulthood or a time to treasure and set aside?
2. Equal vs. differential allocation of time, materials and resources
Should time, materials and resources be distributed equally or differentially among learners?
3. Equal justice under the law vs. ad hoc application of the rules
Should there be equal and uniform sanctions for transgressions from the rules or should sanctions be determined individually?
4. Common culture or sub-group consciousness
Should schools encourage the development of a shared culture or develop the cultures of sub-groups among individuals?