Iowa Science Teachers Journal

Volume 7 | Number 1

Article 2

1969

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Recommended Citation

Glass, Lynn W. (1969) "Open Letter to Science Teachers: Let's Reflect for a Moment," Iowa Science Teachers Journal: Vol. 7: No. 1, Article 2.

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Open Letter to Science Teachers

LET'S REFLECT FOR A MOMENT

Did you greet eager, inquisitive students last September that for some reason unknown to you became inactive and bored by May? What possibly is the cause for the decline in student enthusiasm?

It might not hurt each of us to reflect for a moment on the teaching strategies we used our first year of teaching, our second year, and, yes, even last year. How have they changed? or have they changed? Sometimes we find ourselves so caught up with after-school activities, community functions, family responsibilities, and other time-demanding projects that our teaching becomes secondary. We might not even be aware of the fact that our teaching has been relegated to a secondary position when we pull out of the files all of those tried and proven notes and laboratories. Instead, we might think how much better our teaching is since we've "been through it before."

How long has it been since one of your colleagues has challenged your teaching practices? How long has it been since you've tried a new idea in the classroom?

Perhaps a little communication with our fellow science educators would improve our teaching. Try revitalizing your teaching by reading several professional journals, or by attending local, regional, or national meetings where you can fraternize with fellow science teachers.

Remember, enthusiasm does not decrease in all science classes—for some teachers it improves.

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