

MiddleWeb



15 Favorite Posts of MiddleWeb Readers

▶ [10 Ways to Sabotage Your Classroom Management](#)

You may be surprised to learn that this is the most-read MiddleWeb article we've ever posted, with more than 300,000 pageviews. Then again, if you're a middle grades educator, you may not be surprised at all! This post – full of practical advice that obviously rings true for many, many readers – was shared by brilliant professional learning leader Jennifer Gonzalez. You'll also find a link to her amazing website, Cult of Pedagogy.

▶ [Four Critical Co-Teacher Conversations](#)

Here's a must-read if you teach on either side of the co-teaching relationship. With more than 50,000 pageviews, inclusion coach Elizabeth Stein obviously has valuable advice to share. Read more good advice at her blog [Two Teachers in the Room](#) – another top MiddleWeb destination.

▶ [Idea Starters for the Genius Hour Classroom](#)

Genius Hour gives students the opportunity to be autonomous in their learning. Sometimes, though, they need a little start-up help. Experts Gallit Zvi and Denise Krebs share lots of starter ideas for students and classrooms and urge readers to add their own.

▶ [What an Effective Teacher's Classroom Looks Like](#)

When we published this short excerpt from the latest edition of *7 Simple Secrets* by Annette Breaux and Todd Whitaker, our site traffic meter practically exploded. The popular pair of teaching experts drew on their thousands of hours in hundreds of schools to come up with two simple lists: *What effective (and ineffective) classrooms seem to have in common*.

▶ [New Teachers: Aid, Comfort & Good Advice](#)

No one who's been a new teacher (or lived with one!) will be surprised to know that this rich collection of help for novice teachers and teachers new to the middle grades is a highly popular landing spot in the months between Independence Day and Christmas each year. You can smile now!

▶ [12 Steps to Great STEM Lessons](#)

MiddleWeb is proud to be an early leader in providing ongoing practical advice for creating and sustaining authentic STEM programs in the middle grades. Our blogger Anne Jolly is an award winning science educator and NSF-supported STEM curriculum writer. Here's one of her most-read posts.

▶ [Five Special Strategies for Teaching Tweens](#)

The developmental needs of tweens are unique, and flourishing as a middle grades teacher requires special skills. Middle level expert Rick Wormeli offers five customized strategies that are attuned to the particular requirements of the adolescent brain.

▶ [The 10-Minute Vocabulary Lesson](#)

Marilee Sprenger loves to write about the brain and learning, and she taps her deep knowledge of the subject here with some simple and highly effective ways to integrate vocabulary instruction into content-area lessons. Join 75,000+ teachers in checking it out!

▶ [How to Stage Socratic Seminars in the Middle](#)

This how-to article about Socratic Seminar is adapted from a chapter in Sarah Tantillo's 2012 *The Literacy Cookbook*. Sarah generously provided our readers free access to the Socratic Seminar materials at her subscription website, which may help explain the 45,000+ visits so far.

▶ [Four Myths about Parent Involvement in Middle School](#)

We've all heard that the parents who loved to volunteer and support teachers in the early grades seem to disappear when adolescence rears its head, and kids aren't so keen to see Mom and Dad at school. Education researcher Katie Wester-Neal debunks some myths in this favorite article.

▶ [The Six Characteristics of Effective Praise](#)

Most teachers regularly use praise in their classrooms. However, students can interpret praise positively or negatively. Author and teaching consultant Barbara Blackburn looks at six characteristics of effective praise, using a simple acronym.

▶ [Project Learning in History Class](#)

Project learning in history class can increase student investment "and make them care about this stuff," said our Future of History teacher bloggers Jody Passanisi and Shara Peters in this much-read post. Explore more of their PBL-oriented posts [here](#).

▶ [17 Ideas to Combat Learned Helplessness](#)

Some teaching practices help strengthen students' self-efficacy, motivation and confidence, while others create learned helplessness. Author-consultant Sarah

Tantillo identifies 17 common teaching actions that lead to student inertia and offers better alternatives. More than 40,000 pageviews in less than a year.

▶ [Smart Homework: 13 Ways to Make It Meaningful](#)

In the most popular of a 3-part series on Smart Homework, teaching consultant Rick Wormeli provides a succinct set of do's and don'ts that can help teachers create homework challenges that spark deeper learning in and out of school.

▶ [Looking Ahead to the Last Weeks of School](#)

If you're reading this in the months before spring, the last days of school may seem an impossible distance away. Bookmark it for later use. It's among our most visited posts ever, a resource-laden article written by MiddleWeb co-editor Susan Curtis who remembers those very weeks from her own teaching career.

BONUS!

▶ [Six Reasons Why Middle School Rocks](#)

After 20+ years of teaching, Cheryl Mizerny knows middle school is where she's meant to be. In the first post at her "It's Not Easy Being Tween" blog, Mizerny shared six aspects of young adolescents that make middle-level teaching the toughest job she's ever loved.

Selections based on Google Analytics data, MiddleWeb.com, July 2012–November 2017