



A Brief History of Progressive Education

With Dr. Jason Edwards

Lesson 11:
Deepening our
Understanding of
Progressive Education

Outline:

“The weakness of little children’s limbs is innocent, not their souls.”

St. Augustine

“Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“The achievement of high universal literacy is the key to all other fundamental improvements in American education.”

E.D. Hirsch, Jr.

“Consequently he who wishes to attain to human perfection, must therefore first study Logic, next then various branches of Mathematics in their proper order, then Physics, and lastly Metaphysics.”

Maimonides

“In wilderness is the preservation of the world.”

Henry David Thoreau

“Though the era of progressive education is over in historical terms, its influence continues right into the current day...”

Dr. Jason Edwards

- E.D. Hirsch, Jr.
 - Critic of the contemporary progressive education model of school, specifically, “formalism” and “naturalism”
 - He also identifies and critique’s contemporary progressive education in their tendency to come up with “premature polarizations,” for instance, between traditional and modern or between merely verbal or hands-on.
 - He advocates a shared and equal content background knowledge for everyone - the idea being to build a coherent and supportive system of essential knowledge for the student.
- Modern film is contributing to an “informal education” for the United States by creating cultural values and expectations (largely aligned with the values and expectations of progressive educators).