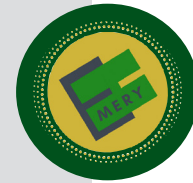


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Does more experience make a better teacher?

Harvard study that reveals experience and effectiveness aren't correlated only raises more questions



JULIE HENG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I've always thought it was somewhat obvious. Charisma, passion for the subject and humor are all important. But experience, above all, must contribute to the quality of teaching. If you're in the game long enough, you can improve a curriculum, become more familiar with the subject, develop your personal teaching style...

Makes sense, right?

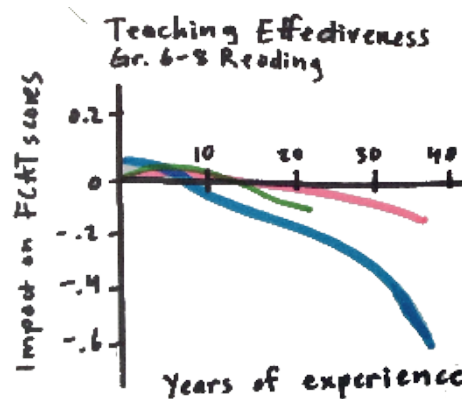
Well, I read a paper out of Harvard that suggests otherwise. The study by Matthew M. Chingos and Paul E. Peterson, "It's easier to pick a good teacher than to train one," was published in the *Economics of Education Review* in 2011. It followed students in Florida for eight years to

determine whether teacher effectiveness was influenced by factors like university attended, advanced degrees and teaching experience.

To evaluate teaching experience, Chingos and Peterson looked at three different models using reading and math score data captured over eight years. All support one conclusion: over time, increasing experience does not mean increasing effectiveness. It appears that experience initially improves effectiveness, especially in the first year of teaching. However, once effectiveness peaks, it can start to slowly decline - as soon as five years in, according to one model.

Okay, so experience doesn't necessarily determine teaching quality. That's a first. But it does add to what we already know: that education is a complicated moving puzzle.

Now, we must acknowledge some of the limitations of this study. Firstly, it bases



"So if it's not all about experience, does that mean I get to teach the class?"



JULIE HENG

effectiveness on standardized statewide reading and math test score data. Many, like Dr. Emma Garcia of the Economic Policy Institute, argue that this prevalent method ignores many of the "non-cognitive skills" essential for development. While this opens up a

whole new conversation about creativity and engagement in education, test scores still function as an objective basis of teaching effectiveness. Many of Huron's statistics and rankings, for example, are still determined through statewide and national tests. So we can

only truly conclude that this concerns teacher effectiveness at knowledge acquisition.

Also, this study follows students from the fourth through eighth grades. Effectiveness of elementary and

See TEACHERS, PAGE 5

em·er·y as defined by Merriam Webster

(noun) "a dark granular mineral that consists of corundum with iron oxide impurities (such as magnetite) and is used as an abrasive"

So, what is an "Emery"?

Staff editorial: why we do what we do

We're revamping this year - the paper has a new, fresh look, and we're excited. The new paper is smaller, more functional and a heck of a lot more fun, too.

So the main job of any news source is to deliver the news. I know, shocker. But it's our responsibility, and part of the challenge we face, to somehow get the news from where it happens to our readers. This means we have to think about our readers first, and how they want to see our news.

It's hard to keep up with the modern world as an in-print newspaper when everyone is constantly scrolling and liking. We recognize this way of life and are adapting to it. We use Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook and our website to get the news out where you can see it. It's a struggle trying to get people to stop scrolling for even just

a second, and even the top news providers in the world are still trying to figure out how to effectively reach out. These are the steps we at the Emery are taking.

So, how does all this fit in with our name, The Huron Emery? To be honest, we had to search what emery even meant. We were even considering changing our name because it's just confusing. But we've decided to keep it, and here's why.

Emery is the rough surface on a nail file. It's like sandpaper. An emery board or nail file is used to smooth out a rough, jagged fingernail until it's pretty and presentable. That's what we do at the paper, too. We take the time to find the rough, hard facts and make them understandable and entertaining for our readers. How we present it is our challenge, one that we're ready to take on this year.

Time to reform the two-party system

Conservative corner



NATHAN PENOYAR
COLUMNIST

We all know that the two-party system is dominant in the U.S. What many people don't know is that fewer people identify with one of the two major parties than at any time in recent history, according to *The Atlantic*. However, the vast majority of voters still voted for the two major party nominees (Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton) during the 2016 Presidential election despite their historic disapproval ratings. This is a result of the two-party system that exists in American politics.

Election campaigns often focus on the negatives and downsides of the opposing candidate and not as much on the ideas of the candidates themselves during the campaign. This is because many voters are motivated more by dislike of the other side than by confidence in their own side.

This does not have to remain the case, however.

This problem could be solved if the two-party system was taken apart or even just weakened to still having the two major parties with relevant minor parties.

The two-party system is mostly caused by the electoral system that the U.S. has. The electoral system that most federal, state and local elections involve is First Past The Post. In FPTP, the candidates are elected just by winning a simple plurality of the vote. In FPTP, a candidate could theoretically win with only one third of the vote. Because of FPTP, a vote for a third party is often seen as a wasted vote and third party candidates are often seen as "spoilers." What often ends up happening as a result of this is either the "spoiler effect," in which a major third party candidate is accused by the candidate from one of the two major parties of taking away votes that the candidate claims would otherwise have gone to them, supposedly causing the candidate to lose the election, or someone who would have otherwise voted for the third party candidates don't due to fears of causing the "spoiler effect."

There are several alternative methods to FPTP.

One would be having a runoff between the top two candidates if no candidate gets over 50 percent of the vote. This would still keep a similar system to what we have now, but the winner would get over 50 percent of the total vote. A drawback is that runoffs cost a lot of money to put on.

Another alternative to FPTP is Ranked Choice Voting, also known as Instant Runoff Voting. The way that RCV works is that someone marks their ballot with their choices listed in order. So for example, someone could vote for Charlie as my first choice, Mary as my second choice, and Bob as my third choice. Maybe Bob was the only candidate on that list with a chance of winning. However, that person could vote for the candidates that they preferred before marking Bob as their third choice. It allows people to vote their conscience before voting for a candidate that may have a better chance of winning that they happen to agree with more. What would happen is that the candidates with the lowest amount of votes are eliminated and their votes redistributed to the second choices marked by

See TWO-PARTY, PAGE 5