

Part 9 part 1

Board of Educators

Our local K through 12 Board of Education meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 6:00 pm. The meetings are open to the public. For the first half of the school year I attended these meetings. The first meeting I attended was the Parent teachers meeting.

At the first parent teachers meeting I introduced myself as a software engineer that retired after Y2K to teach software at Grand Valley State University. I wanted to teach software because of an alarming problem that first introduced itself to me in the mid eighties. As a systems analyst I was given the additional task of running the co-op program where I started by giving the students several tests one of which was a personality style evaluation. This personality style evaluation was used to determine if these students were suited for working with software.

It turned out that just under half of these students were severely supportive in nature. These people would find a profession requiring analytical thought as being overwhelmingly frustrating and yet here they were trying to be in the software industry. I created a short test to identify quickly people that were going in the incorrect direction for a profession.

Later it was evident that there were a lot of people in the incorrect profession. Grand Valley State University, when I asked how hard should there classes be said that I must give their students everything I have when I teach because they were a university. I was told that about one third of my students will fail. This led me to the question. How many of the students were in the correct personality style?

It turned out more than half of these students were supportive and not analytical. So I concluded that as the classes progressed one of the reasons they were failing was they were in the incorrect personality style. Later at ITT I counseled the students to choose a more appropriate curriculum. Then at Ferris State University when teaching software or mathematics this short test identified three quarter of the students were supportive. The programs there supported the "less is more" approach so the students could graduate.

The reason I came to your meeting is to ask you to teach the students "How to Think" because teaching all the students to be just supportive is devastating.