

Liz Schababerle

Ed. Psych. 631

SR Christian

28 July 2014

### Getting Rid of the Box

I believe in magic; there is a supernatural connection between all people. For many generations, the USA has advertised the idea of being a “melting pot”: where all cultures are blended together. In modern-day USA, I have heard more than a few people say we are more like a salad; where everyone is part of a unit yet still separated. In my opinion, the more people believe we are all connected, the more we will be able to see each other for our strengths rather than our weaknesses. Only then will we become the ideal model of a cultural “melting pot.”

As a whole, society cannot function without the help of specialists. When you think about it, every occupation can be considered a specialty. If the doctor did not repair the lawyer’s lungs, the lawyer may not have had the ability to prove the innocence of his client. If law enforcement officials did not provide proper attention to disturbances of the peace, families would not be able to go for an afternoon walk. If the cleaning staff at Google data centers left server farms to be overrun by dust, the world as we know it would have to go through a HUGE adjustment in communication, information collection, and entertainment.

In (my version of) a utopian society, each individual would be encouraged to play to his strengths. In the real world, this does not always happen. Individuals’ roles, at times, seem to be pre-determined. Many people don’t have the information they need to consider all their options: the child whose family business involves becoming a mobster, the teen whose parents insist on her attendance to college, or the adult who unexpectedly has to start supporting a family and forgoes following his dreams. Though there are many factors influencing individuals’ decisions, I believe the ability to play to our strengths is dependent on our perceptions of our options.

I love the quote “instead of thinking outside the box, get rid of the box” (Deepak Chopra). In the classroom, the best opportunity for this is relating the content matter to the students’ own interests. If a girl’s favorite superhero is Iron Man, her English teacher

could ask her to write an essay on the positive and negative influences of technology on the human psyches. If a boy is an avid photographer, his chemistry teacher could show him the break down of the chemicals in a photograph, or his computer teacher could show him the written code behind the magic of photo enhancement.

Everyone on this earth will have an impact as a member of the human race, but it is up to the human race to allow room for everyone to become his or her best self. As a teacher, I believe I have the opportunity to show students the supernatural connection between all people. I believe there is magic in this world, and the more we work together, the more we will experience it.