



# The Learning Clinic

## Education & Career Development Agency

An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.

**Anatole France**

Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.

**Oscar Wilde**

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

**William Butler Yeats**

Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.

**B. F. Skinner**

Education... has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.

**G. M. Trevelyan**

Much education today is monumentally ineffective. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants.

**John W. Gardner**

Why should society feel responsible only for the education of children, and not for the education of all adults of every age?

**Erich Fromm**

To be able to be caught up into the world of thought - that is being educated.

**Edith Hamilton**



## *Life Is Not Fair – Get Used To It!*

**REFLECTIONS by...**

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Education, Training & Career Development Coach

Since January 2008 I have been hosting a special radio show on CKLU 96.7 FM every Monday. During the show I meet with special guests from the community and we discuss their particular careers as well as the real-life decisions and choices they had to make during their life to arrive at their destination.

It has become clear to me that what we are doing on the radio show is helping our listeners become familiar with some of the “rules of life” that they will be facing as they continue along their own journey. In particular, we are helping illuminate the future for young students who may be listening.

While I would hardly put myself on the same level as someone as famous as Bill Gates, I was most impressed with an article I read about a speech he once gave to a high school in the United States. During his presentation Bill Gates provided the audience with ten rules about life that they had not and would not learn in school. He talked about how feel-good, politically correct teachings have created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept has set them up for failure in the real world.

Bill Gates wasn't trying to destroy the confidence and self-esteem of these young students. He was just trying to warn them about some of the realities of life that they would soon run into once they entered the real world. I am sure you will agree it is a warning that all university students should be aware of in order that they may develop the necessary skills to avoid failure when they venture out on their own.

Let me share the rules of life according to Bill Gates. I happen to agree with what he says.

Rule 1: Life is not fair – get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school or university. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 8: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 9: Television is NOT real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 10: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

If you have a chance to tune in to my Radio Show you will hear a lot of very talented and successful people sharing some of their own rules of life and providing you with some true insight into the world of work in a wide variety of careers. Take a look at the web site at [www.thelearningclinic.ca](http://www.thelearningclinic.ca) to see what some of them have had to say. It's your life. Be prepared and be ready to play by the rules.

**Robert Kirwan, OCT, B.A. (Math), M.A. (Education)**

**Education, Training & Career Development**

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