- Adult Education is not for the weak or faint of heart.
- To be good and to have a successful program, you’ve got to “SELL IT!”
- To be successful, you’ve got to LOVE your students and believe in what you’re doing.
- You’ve got to be GOOD at it or everyone will be miserable and you’ll have ZERO students (or else a disgruntled captive audience).
The BEST teachers should all be teaching Adult Ed because they’re the ones our students need most!
For this to work, you’ve got to **LOVE** what you're doing!

Spend extra time on lesson prep
- Know your students’ needs
- Look for ideas online
- Talk to other GOOD teachers

Spend $$$
- Put a little bit back each pay period
- Find a local sponsor
- Find/write a grant

Get the word out in the community
- Create a [Facebook](http://facebook) page
- Newsletters
- Newspaper articles
- Speak at civic organization meetings
Newspaper, Newsletter, Web Site, Social Media, etc.
A local business executive was so impressed with our reading program... she gave us an Amazon gift card as a Christmas gift to purchase Kindle e-books.
Most Importantly, You Need Administrative and Peer Support.

You’ve got to have approval from the boss... PLUS, If your ideas aren’t supported/shared by other teachers, there may be fallout.... like all students wanting to stay in YOUR room or won’t show up if you’re gone!
Where Do We Start?
My Classroom HOME is where the HEART is!

- Warm and Welcoming
- Safe Haven
1. Discuss student goals during the intake session (Student Learning Plan);

2. Career Development Facilitator Questionnaire,  
   • Driver’s license  
   • Birth certificate  
   • Social Security replacement card

3. Discuss additional goals with student, such as studying for the driver’s test, job shadowing, going on to school;

4. Ask student about interests, enjoy reading, ever worked on a family tree;

5. Ask about transportation issues, discuss lunch options;

6. Ask about distractions, past educational experiences (good and bad), working in groups, etc;

7. Ask if the student is on FB (you may want to invite him/her to “friend” you), ask if he/she texts, ask about an email address (may need to set one up for the student);

8. Remind new students about having to have a state-issued ID card to take the test.
as Robin Meade says…. “Mornin’ Sunshine!”

- Always start the day out in a positive and friendly manner.
- Welcome students to your room with a smile.
- Observe student moods, negative personal factors which may block learning.
- If possible, have coffee and snacks available (I allow coffee and soft drinks, but NO FOOD in class).

**Order of Business**

1. First thing we do is check email. I often send assignments via email, as well as communicate with students if I don’t want others to hear. This gets students into the habit of staying on top of email.
2. Second, check the news online at CNN.COM or local station KAIT8.COM, maybe WEATHER.COM.
3. Discuss current events, ask students questions about what’s trending, bring out maps if needed.
Share a good video clip in class or via email, then discuss as a group....

- Current political issues
- Social issues
- Positive and Productive

The Secret to Success
I come up with my best ideas while driving down the road.
Apply to All Areas

Writing
- blogs & creative writing

Reading with audio
- vocabulary & comprehension

Math
- puzzles
- money

Science
- guest speakers
- field trips

Social Studies
- teach with original documents
- present month-long themed units (DVDs, discussions, programs)
In the long run, students will become much more comfortable with digital learning. They’ll use technology to research topics, discuss issues, share interests, study, etc., and not be afraid of the GED Test.
Critical Thinking & Analysis
Assignment

Using the census page, please answer the following questions.

1. How many individuals are listed on this page?
2. What percent are males? What percent are females?
3. How many households are listed on this page?
4. What is the ratio of males to females?
5. What is the average age of men who are heads of households?
6. What percentage of women have children?
7. How many different occupations are listed among males?
8. Create a line chart made up of the states where all those listed on the page were born. This should be a percent problem and the total should equal 100%.
Genealogy Self-Study
“There’s a Hero in Every Family Tree”

- Improves student self-esteem and confidence
- Strengthens analytical abilities
- Encourages students to build knowledge in many academic areas (using original documents, learning about historical dates/eras/events, geography, math)

Online Resources
- familysearch.org
- ancestry.com
- findagrave.com
- fold3.com

Local Resources
- library
- newspaper microfilm
- cemeteries
- courthouse

Expenses
- ink for copying records
- paper
- online subscriptions
- time and patience
Encourage students to find something interesting in nature and research and/or document it on Facebook, Instagram, etc.

Spring Flood 2017 – Documenting the rise and fall of the Eleven Point River at Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas.
Kids LOVE to have their pics taken doing something GOOD! These were taken in class so students could upload to their Facebook pages. Great way to collect support and advertise program. Make sure they gave permission on the Release of Confidential and/or Academic Information page in the intake packet.
Social Media

• I DO have a Facebook page and “friend” many of my students.
• This is an opportunity for me to model positive and productive behavior, speech, and interaction with others.
• They know I’m going to creep and then comment on things I see and read.
• It’s the BEST way to communicate with my students. They know they can message me about class, questions, tell me they’re sick, etc.
• Keep it classy!
Facebook can be a great platform for students to post positive and productive things about themselves and receive praise from adults in advantageous positions (role models, business leaders, successful folks). Many of our students weren’t popular, athletic, or did things which were considered “news worthy” for the local newspapers.

*If you see negative posts, call ‘em on it. Let them know that’s not what employers, probation officers, etc. are looking for.

Theory about why some teen girls allow themselves to get pregnant... they weren’t popular in school, didn’t get their pics in the paper or receive praise. Having a baby puts them in a position to receive congratulations and praise, and if they’ve not had a happy home life, then they see the baby as someone who’ll always love them. These “starved for attention” kids are the ones who live on FB.
Don’t Ignore Social Issues. Often our students HAVE NO CLUE about current events which WILL have an impact on their lives.

Invite someone to be a guest speaker—someone with whom your student will relate...similar background, circumstances, etc. Try to play devil’s advocate and let them see both sides if possible.

Progressive Income Tax video
“That’s the first book I ever read!”

USING AUDIO NARRATION TO ENHANCE READING COMPREHENSION
DO’s and DON’Ts with Reading and Audio

Always read a book before recommending it to students and discuss the characters, plot, etc. as students read.

Listen to the narrator (judge quality)

Vampires, Vampires, Vampires

Choose books students will relate to (Arkansas, the South, etc...)

Give students time to read

Have multiple copies (e-books are GREAT)

Encourage students to become library patrons

Encourage students to stick with age-appropriate books (YA, etc.)

Audio WILL NOT be for everyone. Some students will prefer to read without narration.

Don’t encourage students to read tragedies… stick with happy endings

Don’t REQUIRE students to read—you’ve got to “SELL it, Sister!”

Don’t push Shakespeare or John Steinbeck
WINTER'S BONE

DANIEL WOODRELL

Regional
Wolf Springs Chronicles
YA Story takes place in ARKANSAS
True Life

- Documentaries
- Map Skills
- Online Resources
- Research & Discussion

LIFE LESSONS

1. First Impressions MATTER.
2. You are classes with the company you keep.

West Memphis Three
Charlaine Harris books are GREAT for women because they portray strong, independent, employed women as central characters and heroines who never give up!

charlaineharris.com
Guards of the Shadowlands by Sarah Fine
• Short stories on the website
• Journal of character
• Map of city

sarahfinebooks.com

- High School Drama (popularity, sports, prom)
- Ethnic and Socio-Economic Diversity
- Life and Death
- Suicide
- Purgatory and After-Life
- Heaven and Hell
- Monsters

GREAT for
- Class Discussions
- Extended Response Writing
- Critical Thinking
Make your students feel important and happy!

Contact the author or publisher to tell about your program, students, ask for books. Send photos and/or Facebook links. If you do it right, they’ll respond!
Many YA books have supplementary material on the author’s web site...

A map of the Dark City from *Sanctum*
This event was held to celebrate the release of the third and final book in the *Guardians of the Shadowlands* series which several of my teens had been reading. The book was called *Chaos*, so our event was called “A Day of Chaos”

This door wreath was up for a couple of weeks so students could plan to attend. I sent a link of the Facebook post to the author and she published it on her website! My students were IMPRESSED!

I provided snacks and drinks and they read all day! **HUGE SUCCESS**
The Arcana Chronicles...
a story about Southern teens in an apocalyptic world

...more books in the series coming soon
Map of locations in *Dead of Winter* – from the author’s website
The Arcana Chronicles
Young Adult Series by Kresley Cole

A deck of Tarot cards is recommended to have for classroom activities for this series.
“Prior to the 18th century AD, there is no record of tarot cards being used either for the occult or divination. In fact, tarot cards were originally used as playing cards.”

www.ancient-origins.net
Cooperative Learning
As students read the books, they may go to the table and begin to give names to the cards based on the book characters. They may work together, which promotes discussion, thinking, and teamwork.
A dry-erase board is good for more than just writing on.

1. I’ve lined up the Tarot cards for students to consider which card goes with which character in the book series the class is reading.
2. I’ve posted two photos of our local courthouse, one from 1903 and the other from 1936. We had several discussion questions based on these two photos: length of time between photos, what happened in the world between those two dates, etc.
3. Map skills – and I can use the board to add to the items here (draw lines, highlight, circle, etc.)
After four books, the students may now divide the characters into sides, as well as separate those who are deceased or unknown.

The cards are attached with tape and may be moved as needed.

Students may go to the board and consider characters, events, etc. Great for visual learners.
Reading for pleasure should be incorporated into every class day!
Kindle e-reader or downloadable app for iPad or computer
get comfortable....

zone in....

ENJOY
I encourage my students to “build your nest and make it your own.”

Claim a computer seat or spot in my room as their permanent space. This will decrease anxiety. They can plan their day as if they are the CEO of a company. The GED prep is their “occupation.”
Always have reminders that your classroom is a place where the students are very important and always cared for.

A sense of humor will go a long way, too.
Thank You

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BRTC Adult Education Program