The Saber-Tooth Curriculum

- What are the main issues raised in the book?
- How do they relate to present-day educational issues?
- What comments would you make about the issues in the book?
- What general comments would you make about the book?
Some of the issues raised in the Saber-Tooth Curriculum

- Location of Tijuana as a melting pot
- The importance of philosophy in education
- The development of an educational system--elementary, secondary, tertiary and teacher education.
- Difference between education and training
- Teacher certification
- Teaching methods
- Resistance to educational change
The influence of technology
Emergence of capitalism
Retirement of older workers
Youth unemployment
Process of Knowledge

1. When an event occurs to the human knower, it appears as **SENSATION**.
2. When we live the event it is **EXPERIENCE**.
3. When we extract the meaning of the event (finding similarities and differences), make use of it, build upon it, store it--then we have **KNOWLEDGE**.
How do we know?

By what method is knowledge obtained? OR What are the sources of knowledge?
1 Instinct

- inborn predispositions--ideas or reactions;
- naturally endowed ideas;
- survival of mankind depended on instincts;
- learning, science and culture are built on the firm foundation of instincts;
- mankind relies on instincts when all fails.
Intuition

- direct and immediate insight into reality;
- knowing things independently of experience, before experience, beyond experience;
- a fact forcing itself upon the consciousness—no doubt of hesitation is involved;
- intuition knowledge is self-sufficient and self-evident.
people know what their senses experience and nothing more;

– we know what we see;
– we know what we touch;
– we know what we hear.
Reason or intellect which organizes bare, unrelated facts or impressions and makes them meaningful;

individual and isolated facts are worthless and meaningless by themselves unless they are accepted, recognized, interpreted, organized, related and stored by the intellect.
Revelation
Authority
GROUP WORK

Are tests of teacher knowledge fair?
Is knowledge subjective or objective?
3 Basic Positions on the Objectivity of Knowledge

1. Knowledge is something that comes to us from the outside and inserted into our minds.
2. The knower contributes to the construction of knowledge.
3. Human beings are “pure subjects” in the manufacture of truth.
How can we judge and test the validity of knowledge?
we can tell the difference between what is true and false by simple recognition;

– what is true is self-evident; we do not learn the truth, we merely recognize it.


- our knowledge is a mirror or copy of things as they are;
- the mental experience corresponds with objective reality
  - our sensations and our thoughts mirror or reflect the outer world.
3 Theory of Pragmatism or theory of utility

A statement or judgment is true if it works satisfactorily
The coherence or consistency theory

- a true fact is knowledge consistent with other knowledge;
- a true statement must not be contradictory;
- a true statement must not conflict with what we already know to be true.
Francis Bacon’s Obstacles to Knowledge

1 Idols of the tribe
   - limit due to the constitution and power of the human mind;
2 Idols of the Cave

Individual differences due to heredity, environment, education, habit, bias, etc. The differences cause various impressions which result in different interpretations.
Idols of the Marketplace

The limitations and imperfections of language obstruct understanding.
4 Idols of the Theater

- We approach most problems with preconceived notions which we acquire from the influence of certain established authorities, traditions, and dogmas.
- It is difficult to accept new methods, new viewpoints or new knowledge.