

## Quest Activity:

- There are numerous alternative education models that have been implemented throughout the world. While some of these diverse models might be more familiar, the Waldorf educational philosophy for example, others such as anarcho-pedagogy are more unconventional and operate on the fringes of the education system. In this quest, you will be exposed to the Free School model and will be asked to examine whether and how elements of this model might be applied to the public school system.
- Submit for 60 points



## Topic: **Free Schools, by Patrick McDowall.**



Decades of research has shown that all children develop at varying paces. Rousseau, Gessel, and Werner all highlighted this fact and saw little benefit in pushing learners towards concepts they are not yet developmentally prepared for, and yet this is the precise framework implemented in public schools. The dissatisfaction and trauma experienced by those learners unable to adapt to the public school model has led to the creation of alternative systems. While home education and deschooling have seen a dramatic increase in popularity, various models of community schooling have also been developed. One such example is the so-called Free School where democratic values and individualization are seen as paramount. In a Free School there is no curriculum and the learner directs their own progress towards self-appointed goals. The teacher is present but always remains in the role of facilitator. While still quite heterodox, Free Schools are slowly moving in from the margins and are garnering increased attention.



## Instructions:

**1** Watch the following video: <https://youtu.be/FxsSlwjqKq>

**2** Process/Research

After viewing the video of Andrea Howard explaining her experience of attempting to operate a Free School in Nanaimo, visit the following three websites and explore some of the critical theory and background to this education model.

1. <https://nanaimofreelearners.com/>
2. <http://www.summerhillschool.co.uk/>
3. <http://clearviewsudburyschool.org/>

Questions to consider after reading about these three schools:

- What are the elements of the Free School model that resonate with you as a soon-to-be teacher?
- Are there aspects of Free Schools which you consider impractical or potentially harmful to the educative process of learners?
- Do you feel it is possible for you as a future teacher to implement some of the practises utilised by Free Schools?
- What do you consider are the barriers to any possible application of these ideas to the public school system?

### 3 Process/Representation

- Your choice of response for this quest is very individualized. You may wish to explore your personal reactions through a blog entry, cohort conversations within the Google+ community, or by including elements of the Free School model within lesson plans for the practicum experience.
- Post your responses to your ePortfolio or provide them directly to your instructor.

### 4 Submit

Once you have completed all three steps submit your Quest to GameLab.

In the comment area of this quest submission:

- Provide your first and last name,
- Cohort,
- Paste the URL of whatever you used to handle the quest OR paste whatever you are handing in,
- Briefly state what you have done for this quest,
- If needed, give instructions regarding where to find what you have done for this quest, and,
- If you are claiming extra XP, describe **how much XP** you want and **why**. Often, the "reason why" is due to extra time spent on the quest, yielding depth or breadth in your work.

