

The Nine Habits of Highly Ineffective Teachers

1. When in doubt, get mad at someone and blame them.
2. 'I can do it all myself'.
3. 'I teach as if all students learn the same way.'
4. 'I teach the way I was taught'.
5. 'Don't tolerate, discriminate'. Life isn't fair. Why should I be?
6. 'But we've always done it this way!'
7. Every day, I get up and say, 'Hey! There are a lot better things I could be doing with my life!'
8. 'There's nothing funny about education'
9. Believing the adage "People who can't do, teach".

That last one always makes me angry. I teach math and science to high school students. I'm not a mathematician, nor am I a scientist.

I am a teacher!

It takes a great deal of skill and professional training to stand in front of a class of hormone-driven teenagers of all abilities, teenagers who would rather be out on their sleds roaring around the snow-packed fields, than sitting in my classroom learning about polynomial functions. And getting it.

I can do that. A mathematician can't.

