[I have been teaching for a long time,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html%22%20%5Cl%20%220) [and in doing so](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#3000) [have acquired a body of knowledge about kids and learning](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#5000) [that I really wish more people would understand](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#8000) [about the potential of students.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#11000) [In 1931, my grandmother --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#14000) [bottom left for you guys over here --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#16000) [graduated from the eighth grade.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#18000) [She went to school to get the information](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#20000) [because that's where the information lived.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#22000) [It was in the books; it was inside the teacher's head;](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#24000) [and she needed to go there to get the information,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#26000) [because that's how you learned.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#29000) [Fast-forward a generation:](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#31000) [this is the one-room schoolhouse, Oak Grove,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#33000) [where my father went to a one-room schoolhouse.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#35000) [And he again had to travel to the school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#37000) [to get the information from the teacher,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#39000) [stored it in the only portable memory he has, which is inside his own head,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#41000) [and take it with him,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#44000) [because that is how information was being transported](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#46000) [from teacher to student and then used in the world.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#49000)[When I was a kid,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#52000) [we had a set of encyclopedias at my house.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#54000) [It was purchased the year I was born,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#56000) [and it was extraordinary,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#58000) [because I did not have to wait to go to the library to get to the information.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#60000) [The information was inside my house](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#63000) [and it was awesome.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#65000) [This was different](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#67000)[than either generation had experienced before,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#69000) [and it changed the way I interacted with information](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#71000) [even at just a small level.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#73000) [But the information was closer to me.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#75000) [I could get access to it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#77000)

[In the time that passes](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#79000) [between when I was a kid in high school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#81000) [and when I started teaching,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#83000)[we really see the advent of the Internet.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#85000) [Right about the time that the Internet gets going](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#87000) [as an educational tool,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#89000) [I take off from Wisconsin](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#91000) [and move to Kansas, small town Kansas,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#93000) [where I had an opportunity to teach](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#95000) [in a lovely, small-town,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#97000) [rural Kansas school district,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#99000) [where I was teaching my favorite subject,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#101000) [American government.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#103000) [My first year -- super gung-ho -- going to teach American government,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#105000) [loved the political system.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#108000) [Kids in the 12th grade:](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#110000) [not exactly all that enthusiastic](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#112000) [about the American government system.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#114000) [Year two: learned a few things -- had to change my tactic.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#116000) [And I put in front of them an authentic experience](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#119000) [that allowed them to learn for themselves.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#121000) [I didn't tell them what to do or how to do it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#124000) [I posed a problem in front of them,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#126000) [which was to put on an election forum for their own community.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#128000)

[They produced fliers. They called offices.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#132000) [They checked schedules. They were meeting with secretaries.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#134000) [They produced an election forum booklet](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#136000) [for the entire town to learn more about their candidates.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#138000) [They invited everyone into the school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#140000) [for an evening of conversation](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#142000) [about government and politics](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#144000) [and whether or not the streets were done well,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#146000) [and really had this robust experiential learning.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#148000) [The older teachers -- more experienced --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#151000) [looked at me and went,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#153000) ["Oh, there she is. That's so cute. She's trying to get that done."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#155000) [(Laughter)](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#158000) ["She doesn't know what she's in for."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#160000) [But I knew that the kids would show up,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#162000) [and I believed it,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#164000) [and I told them every week what I expected out of them.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#166000) [And that night, all 90 kids --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#169000) [dressed appropriately, doing their job, owning it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#171000) [I had to just sit and watch.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#174000) [It was theirs. It was experiential. It was authentic.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#176000) [It meant something to them.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#178000) [And they will step up.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#180000)

[From Kansas, I moved on to lovely Arizona,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#182000) [where I taught in Flagstaff for a number of years,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#185000)[this time with middle school students.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#188000) [Luckily, I didn't have to teach them American government.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#190000) [Could teach them the more exciting topic of geography.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#192000) [Again, "thrilled" to learn.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#195000)[But what was interesting](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#199000) [about this position I found myself in in Arizona,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#201000) [was I had this really](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#204000)[extraordinarily eclectic group of kids to work with](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#206000) [in a truly public school,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#208000) [and we got to have these moments where we would get these opportunities.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#210000) [And one opportunity](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#213000) [was we got to go and meet Paul Rusesabagina,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#215000) [which is the gentleman](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#218000) [that the movie "Hotel Rwanda" is based after.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#220000) [And he was going to speak at the high school next door to us.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#222000) [We could walk there. We didn't even have to pay for the buses.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#224000) [There was no expense cost. Perfect field trip.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#226000)

[The problem then becomes](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#229000) [how do you take seventh- and eighth-graders to a talk about genocide](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#231000) [and deal with the subject in a way](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#233000) [that is responsible and respectful,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#235000) [and they know what to do with it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#237000) [And so we chose to look at Paul Rusesabagina](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#239000) [as an example of a gentleman](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#241000) [who singularly used his life to do something positive.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#243000) [I then challenged the kids to identify](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#247000) [someone in their own life, or in their own story, or in their own world,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#249000) [that they could identify that had done a similar thing.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#252000) [I asked them to produce a little movie about it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#254000) [It's the first time we'd done this.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#256000) [Nobody really knew how to make these little movies on the computer,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#258000) [but they were into it. And I asked them to put their own voice over it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#260000) [It was the most awesome moment of revelation](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#264000) [that when you ask kids to use their own voice](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#269000) [and ask them to speak for themselves,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#272000) [what they're willing to share.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#274000) [The last question of the assignment is:](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#276000) [how do you plan to use your life](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#278000) [to positively impact other people?](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#280000) [The things that kids will say](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#282000) [when you ask them and take the time to listen](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#284000) [is extraordinary.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#287000)

[Fast-forward to Pennsylvania, where I find myself today.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#290000) [I teach at the Science Leadership Academy,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#293000) [which is a partnership school between the Franklin Institute](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#295000) [and the school district of Philadelphia.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#298000) [We are a nine through 12 public school,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#300000) [but we do school quite differently.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#303000) [I moved there primarily](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#306000) [to be part of a learning environment](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#308000) [that validated the way that I knew that kids learned,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#310000) [and that really wanted to investigate](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#312000) [what was possible](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#314000) [when you are willing to let go](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#316000) [of some of the paradigms of the past,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#318000) [of information scarcity when my grandmother was in school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#320000) [and when my father was in school and even when I was in school,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#323000)[and to a moment when we have information surplus.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#326000) [So what do you do when the information is all around you?](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#328000) [Why do you have kids come to school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#331000) [if they no longer have to come there to get the information?](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#333000)

[In Philadelphia we have a one-to-one laptop program,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#336000) [so the kids are bringing in laptops with them everyday,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#339000) [taking them home, getting access to information.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#342000) [And here's the thing that you need to get comfortable with](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#345000) [when you've given the tool](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#348000) [to acquire information to students,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#350000) [is that you have to be comfortable with this idea](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#352000) [of allowing kids to fail](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#354000) [as part of the learning process.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#356000) [We deal right now in the educational landscape](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#359000) [with an infatuation](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#361000) [with the culture of one right answer](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#363000) [that can be properly bubbled on the average multiple choice test,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#365000) [and I am here to share with you:](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#368000) [it is not learning.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#370000) [That is the absolute wrong thing to ask,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#372000) [to tell kids to never be wrong.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#375000) [To ask them to always have the right answer](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#377000) [doesn't allow them to learn.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#380000) [So we did this project,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#382000) [and this is one of the artifacts of the project.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#384000) [I almost never show them off](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#386000) [because of the issue of the idea of failure.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#388000)

[My students produced these info-graphics](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#390000) [as a result of a unit that we decided to do at the end of the year](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#392000) [responding to the oil spill.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#395000) [I asked them to take the examples that we were seeing](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#397000) [of the info-graphics that existed](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#400000) [in a lot of mass media,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#402000) [and take a look at what were the interesting components of it,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#404000) [and produce one for themselves](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#407000) [of a different man-made disaster from American history.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#409000) [And they had certain criteria to do it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#411000) [They were a little uncomfortable with it,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#413000) [because we'd never done this before, and they didn't know exactly how to do it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#415000) [They can talk -- they're very smooth,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#417000) [and they can write very, very well,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#419000) [but asking them to communicate ideas in a different way](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#421000) [was a little uncomfortable for them.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#424000) [But I gave them the room to just do the thing.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#427000) [Go create. Go figure it out.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#430000) [Let's see what we can do.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#432000) [And the student that persistently](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#434000) [turns out the best visual product did not disappoint.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#436000) [This was done in like two or three days.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#439000) [And this is the work of the student that consistently did it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#441000)

[And when I sat the students down, I said, "Who's got the best one?"](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#444000) [And they immediately went, "There it is."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#447000) [Didn't read anything. "There it is."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#449000) [And I said, "Well what makes it great?"](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#451000)[And they're like, "Oh, the design's good, and he's using good color.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#453000) [And there's some ... " And they went through all that we processed out loud.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#455000) [And I said, "Go read it."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#458000) [And they're like, "Oh, that one wasn't so awesome."](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#460000) [And then we went to another one --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#463000) [it didn't have great visuals, but it had great information --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#465000) [and spent an hour talking about the learning process,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#467000)[because it wasn't about whether or not it was perfect,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#470000) [or whether or not it was what I could create.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#472000) [It asked them to create for themselves,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#474000) [and it allowed them to fail,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#477000) [process, learn from.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#479000)[And when we do another round of this in my class this year,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#481000) [they will do better this time,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#483000)[because learning](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#485000) [has to include an amount of failure,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#487000) [because failure is instructional](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#490000) [in the process.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#492000)

[There are a million pictures](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#494000) [that I could click through here,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#497000) [and had to choose carefully -- this is one of my favorites --](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#499000) [of students learning,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#502000) [of what learning can look like](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#504000) [in a landscape where we let go of the idea](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#506000) [that kids have to come to school to get the information,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#509000) [but instead, ask them what they can do with it.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#511000) [Ask them really interesting questions.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#513000) [They will not disappoint.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#515000) [Ask them to go to places,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#517000) [to see things for themselves,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#519000) [to actually experience the learning,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#521000) [to play, to inquire.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#523000) [This is one of my favorite photos,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#526000) [because this was taken on Tuesday,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#528000) [when I asked the students to go to the polls.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#530000) [This is Robbie, and this was his first day of voting,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#532000) [and he wanted to share that with everybody and do that.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#535000) [But this is learning too,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#537000) [because we asked them to go out into real spaces.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#539000)

[The main point](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#545000) [is that, if we continue to look at education](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#547000) [as if it's about coming to school](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#550000) [to get the information](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#553000) [and not about experiential learning,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#555000) [empowering student voice and embracing failure,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#557000) [we're missing the mark.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#560000) [And everything that everybody is talking about today](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#562000) [isn't possible if we keep having an educational system](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#564000) [that does not value these qualities,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#567000) [because we won't get there with a standardized test,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#570000) [and we won't get there with a culture of one right answer.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#572000) [We know how to do this better,](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#574000) [and it's time to do better.](http://www.ted.com/talks/diana_laufenberg_3_ways_to_teach.html#576000)