

# Gary Patton's Approach To Teaching Business & Life-skills Programs

My approach to teaching business and lifeskills programs has evolved over 20+ years of continuing learning, since leaving the University of Toronto with a MA. I have polished it by doing further post-graduate work in Teacher Training at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and in adult learning and professional development at Seneca College plus Ryerson and York Universities.

I have refined my approach through my practical business experience as a corporate executive, management consultant, personal development coach organizational trainer, professional speaker and course ware developer.

## ***My Mission & Calling***

Coaches, instructors and teachers have a high calling and mission. My mission and calling add distinctive value. I am charged with the mission of igniting minds ---- assisting my co-learners to become more effective thinkers --- rather than simply delivering stale content by adhering to common methods, strategies and tactics.

## ***My Teaching Style***

You'll discover that my teaching style is highly interactive and designed to passionately involve my co-learners current thinking so they will motivate themselves to change their current behaviour.

In working with co-learners, I use large- and small-group discussion, Socratic questioning and lecturing. I also employ case studies, role-playing and a variety of skills practice exercises extensively. I also use vignettes from popular movies and contemporary songs to teach lifeskills and other life lessons.

One needs to be different to teach adult learners. Therefore, I behave as a coach and work hard to help my co- learners discover what they often already know. And I teach them that life rewards us not for what we know but for *what we do with what we know*.

You will see me complement my programs and learning guides with handouts that I have developed or discovered over my business career. I also will enhance your learning with my "Personal Commitment Contract™" and "SelfCritique for Self-Improvement™". I designed these tools to enhance your growth.

You likewise will find me very personal in the way I deal with co-learners once we become comfortable with one another ...because I care. I use a lot of humour in my work. You will notice that I am passionate about learning. I demonstrate that in how I instruct and relate to you.

You also will discover in working with me that I do the best I know how to assist my co-learners to have fun while we are all learning together.



***“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” ~ William Arthur Ward, U.S. author, editor, pastor and teacher***

## ***My Approach to Communications***

Most important things in life are simply the application of effective communication principles. I stress these key communication principles to learners:

- clarifying with the intended recipients that what is to be communicated will be helpful ...before doing so;
- focusing on the needs of the recipients identified by careful and thorough prior research;
- budgeting sufficient time to allow stressless preparation of the communication for all involved, whenever possible;
- making the communication appropriately emotional and personal;
- crafting templates and standard approaches for commonly recurring situations, in advance;
- using a simple but elegant "Communications Guide" to prepare an important communication that focuses it on the benefits of the suggested action for recipients
- asking the recipients to actually take the suggested action in the communication;
- reviewing communications, carefully and personally, before final proof reading by others;
- arranging for advanced peer review, when possible;
- practicing *all* oral presentations with an audience for constructive feedback, prior to delivery, and for me most importantly ...
- having fun while communicating and learning ...always!

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***"I specialize in coaching professionals to measurably improve their team performance & add distinctive value."***

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