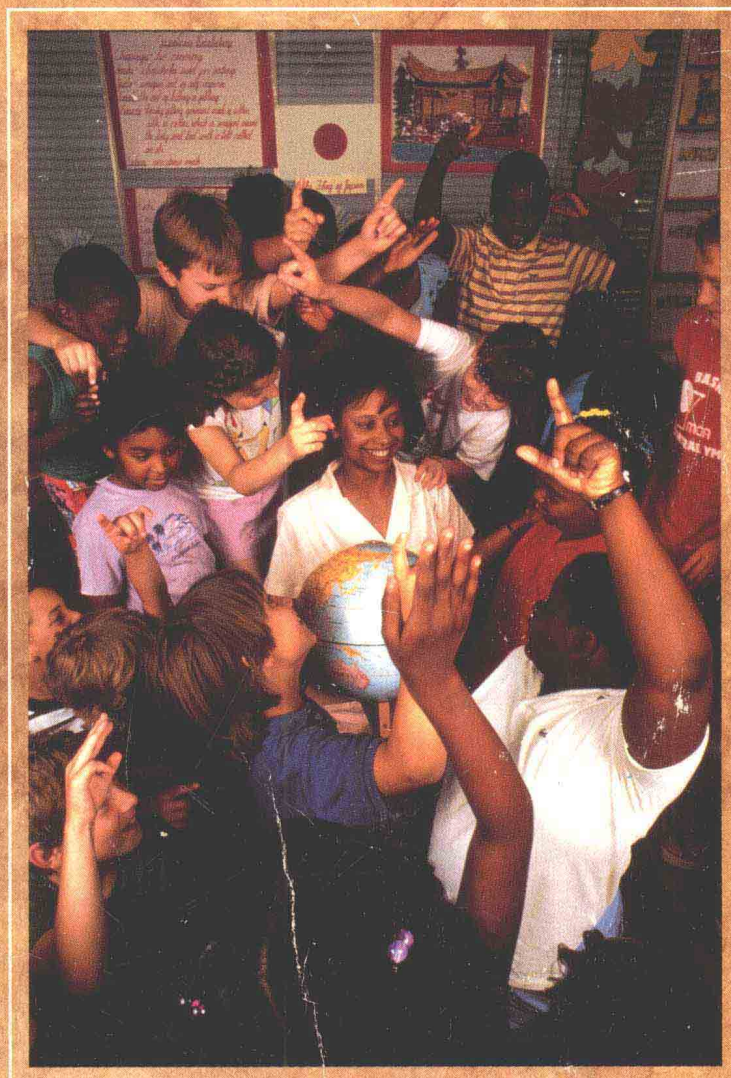


s e v e n t h e d i t i o n

American Education

An Introduction to Teaching



JOHANSEN • JOHNSON • HENNIGER

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An Introduction to Teaching

JOHN H. JOHANSEN

Northern Illinois University

•

JAMES A. JOHNSON

Northern Illinois University

•

MICHAEL L. HENNIGER

Western Washington University

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Benchmark
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American Education

An Introduction to Teaching

Preface

These are exciting times in the world of education. The 1990s promise many rewards and challenges for those who would be teachers. The seventh edition of *American Education: An Introduction to Teaching* provides you with a comprehensive picture of the excitement and challenges found in the world of education.

This new edition of the book contains many new features including case studies, practical teaching tips, enrichment assignments, and a new final chapter entitled "Empowering Teachers and Forging New Partnerships." In addition, the entire book has been thoroughly revised and brought up-to-date with the latest information.

This book has five sections arranged in the following sequence: "Becoming A Teacher," "The Teaching Profession," "The Role of Education in the United States," "The Learning Process," "The Organization and Governance of Public Education in the United States." The material presented in the book is designed to help individuals decide whether teaching would be a satisfying career for them, and to explore a wide range of important educational topics. We started this book with "Becoming a Teacher" and "The Teaching Profession" because the material presented in those sections and chapters is likely to be of immediate interest to those considering teaching as a career; they also provide a frame of reference for the sections that follow. The nature and organization of the book, however, is such that content can be presented in differing sequences to accommodate various course structures.

The first seven chapters are particularly pertinent to teaching as a career choice. Those chapters provide information about the importance of education and teaching, public attitudes toward public schools and teachers, why teachers become teachers and why they leave teaching, alternative careers in education, teacher preparation programs, alternative certification, the roles of teachers, maintaining classroom discipline, effective teaching, teacher employability, rewards and challenges of teaching, and teacher organizations.

Section 3, "The Role of Education in the United States," presents an overview of the past and present goals of education in our society and the expectations of both society and individuals for education. It also addresses the critical social problems in today's schools; the history of educational thought and the persistent issues of education as related to the contemporary scene; and the current attitudes toward schools with respect to both traditional and progressive beliefs about education.

Section 4, "The Learning Process," includes information about the nature of learners, the nature of curriculum, and the instructional resources available to teachers today. Topics such as individual differences, self-perception, variations in ability, maturation rate, child growth and development, and motivation and learning are discussed from the teacher's point of view. A wide range of curriculum topics are also presented in this section of the book. The instructional resources that educators utilize are discussed, with emphasis placed on the most recent technology such as instructional television, laser videodiscs, and computers.

Section 5, “The Organization and Governance of Public Education in the United States,” deals with the purposes of the various levels of education from pre-primary programs through adult education, including home instruction and private education. The governance and legal basis of education at the federal, state, and local levels are discussed, along with the financial aspects of the public education enterprise. The book ends with an exciting new chapter on “Empowering Teachers and Forging New Partnerships.” This chapter will be of special interest to future teachers who will participate in these new adventures in education.

Pedagogical study aids in the textbook include: charts, graphs, tables, photos, and examples which help the reader better understand the content. Each chapter also contains two new case studies and new practical teaching tips. The discussion in each chapter closes with a brief, pertinent article selected to stimulate thought. In some instances these articles provide more detailed information about a topic, and in other instances they introduce different perspectives to the topics discussed in their respective chapters. The articles reflect the views of researchers, college professors, practicing teachers, and other professionals. Bibliographic information and discussion questions conclude each chapter.

The textbook has an excellent supplementary manual entitled *Instructor's Manual to Accompany American Education: An Introduction to Teaching*. A significant addition to the manual in this edition is the

“Enrichment Assignments” for each chapter that will help the student better understand important concepts described in each chapter. All test items are also available on a computerized testing/quizzing/grading program which features a wide variety of test questions covering each chapter of the book. The manual also contains instructional objectives for each chapter in the book, an outline presenting the major points and topics discussed, and transparency masters. The suggested teaching aids in the manual provide an additional resource for instructors using the textbook.

American Education: An Introduction to Teaching has been shaped by the authors’ experiences as teachers and administrators at all levels of education. The contributions made by the readers of earlier editions, the opinions of colleagues and students, and the evaluations of many experienced reviewers have been incorporated into this edition. In particular we thank these individuals for their in-depth reviews of this seventh edition: Joseph A. Baust, Murray State University; Jack C. Stewart, Columbia College (Georgia); and Clement A. Seldin, University of Massachusetts–Amherst. Sincere appreciation is expressed to all of these people and to the many authors and publishers who granted us permission to use their materials in this revision. Most importantly, we thank the thousands upon thousands of students throughout the United States who have used this book over the past twenty years as part of their teacher-education program. We sincerely hope that the information they obtained from this book continues to serve them well.

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Research Finding 2 Schools contribute to their students' academic achievement by establishing, communicating, and enforcing fair and consistent discipline policies. *Chapter 2 31*

Research Finding 3 The most important characteristics of effective schools are strong instructional leadership, a safe and orderly climate, school-wide emphasis on basic skills, high teacher expectations for student achievement, and continuous assessment of pupil progress. *Chapter 3 51*

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Research Finding 6 Teachers welcome professional suggestions about improving their work, but they rarely receive them. *Chapter 6 124*

Research Finding 7 Belief in the value of hard work, the importance of personal responsibility, and the importance of education itself contributes to greater success in school. *Chapter 8 161*

Research Finding 8 A school staff that provides encouragement and personalized attention, and monitors daily attendance can reduce unexcused absences and class-cutting. *Chapter 9 178*

Research Finding 9 Skimpy requirements and declining enrollments in history classes are contributing to a decline in students' knowledge of the past. *Chapter 10 211*

Research Finding 10 Good character is encouraged by surrounding students with good adult examples and by building upon natural occasions for learning and practicing good character. Skillful educators know how to organize their schools, classrooms, and lessons to foster such examples. *Chapter 11 226*

Research Finding 11 Children's understanding of the relationship between being smart and hard work changes as they grow. *Chapter 12 239*

Research Finding 12 Handicapped high school students who seek jobs after graduation are more likely to find them when schools prepare them for careers and private sector businesses provide on-the-job training. *Chapter 13 265*

Research Finding 13 The use of libraries enhances reading skills and encourages independent learning. *Chapter 14 278*

Research Finding 14 Advancing gifted students at a faster pace results in their achieving more than similarly gifted students who are taught at a normal rate. *Chapter 16 315*

Research Finding 15 Successful principals establish policies that create an orderly environment and support effective instruction. *Chapter 17 355*