Talking points on Video

1. This video was created as part of a larger, informational and motivational project speaking to the importance of keeping children and youth in foster care involved and engaged in their education.

2. In producing this, we spoke to wide array of “experts”, from educators and child advocates to foster children and former foster children.

3. Our goal in this was to capture the voices of the people most intimate with the current system, those who are or were in it and those who work for it, so that you could hear what they are asking for and, in hearing, you can begin to transform our culture into one that addresses the “important” as opposed to only the “urgent.”

4. **COMMENTARY**

   All too often, we immerse ourselves in what tasks need to get done in order to satisfy the “system” (i.e. what paperwork needs to get filled out, what schedule we need to keep and what demands or quotas we must meet in order to satisfy our “policy”). This focus on the letter of the law often runs counter to the actual needs of the people we serve – the children and youth in foster care.

   In fact, we serve human beings. These Individuals, by definition cannot fit into a “system.” The system, therefore, must be considered as guidelines – suggestions, if you will, that are put in place to provide a loosely marked path to a desired goal.

   Only a real relationship with these children can determine their individual needs for love and nurturing, also known as teaching, that will ultimately lead to success.

5. OPTIONAL - While some may view this video and take this presentation as an indictment on the system, IT IS NOT. We consider it an encouragement to make the system better; make it go from good to great, what together we intend it to be.

6. CLOSE – We hope this video and the backpack of knowledge that accompanied it will commit you to: Stay engaged. Stay proactive. And remind yourself every time you look in the mirror...

   EVERYBODY IS A TEACHER