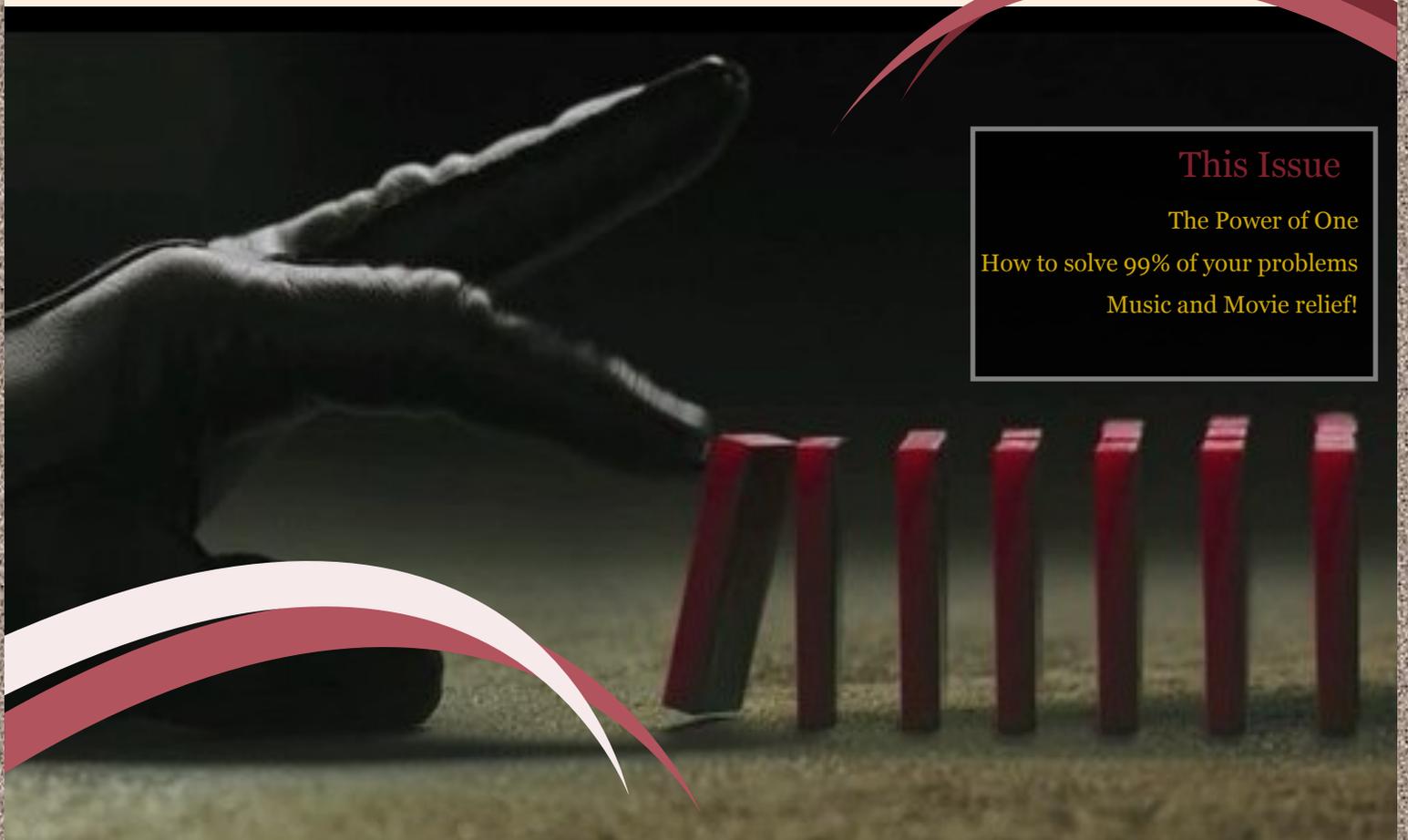


.:Buildyourworld:.

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Weekly Blog of Students Oklahoma Education Association



This Issue

The Power of One

How to solve 99% of your problems

Music and Movie relief!

The power of *one*.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, **it is the only thing that ever has.**”*

-Margaret Mead (Anthropologist, 1901-1978)

Time and time again in history, we see how critical turning points of entire civilizations hinged on the actions of small groups of individuals and even at times on sole individuals. Aristotle changed the way we as humans view logic and the world around us. He even tutored Alexander the Great, who went on to conquer the known world by the time he was 32. Joan of Arc, at the age of 17, led the French to eventual victory over the invading English army. The Wright brothers discovered how to defy gravity. Sir Isaac Newton and his contemporaries discovered new areas of math and science, some of which are still being understood just today. And the list of world-changers could go on. However, you must remember one thing—these were not extraordinary beings. They were humans like you and I who experienced disappointments and setbacks. However, they did possess one characteristic that defines a leader and a worldchanger...

[C o n t i n u e d o n [P a g e 3](#)]

How to Solve 99% of Your Problems

Miscommunication—the greatest enemy of the classroom



Good communication skills are important for any profession. In education, it could be the difference between success and failure.

Take a trip with me back to high school. Remember those sick, nasty little viruses that floated around called “rumors?” How do those usually start? - usually a bout of he-said-she-said games. In reality though, the root cause goes much deeper than peer rivalry. This cause extends itself to numerous other problems ranging from **construed facebook statuses** to **marriages falling apart** to even **presidential scandals**. And despite being such a societal wrecking-ball, it is actually fixed fairly easily, if you’re proactive about it. The cause which I am talking about is none other than **miscommunication**.

I would go as far to say that **miscommunication accounts for 99% of the problems in life**. Think about it. Miscommunication can be defined as, *“An interaction between two parties in which information was not communicated as desired.”* Think of the problems you have with your roommate, your job, your school, your family, etc. How many of those problems can be attributed to miscommunication? In your classroom, you will also encounter problems and challenges and many if not most of them will be due to miscommunication—whether on your part or theirs. But there’s hope! **Through these few, simple ideas, you can advert and eliminate SO MANY problems!** Just take a look:

- ◆ **Repetition:** Bombard them! Make sure they know all the details you are trying to say and then say it again. Whether this is through email, text, oration, handouts, newsletters, or a cluster bomb of all of them, make sure there are no loose ends.
- ◆ **Read my lips:** Pay attention to their body language. Statistics show that 55% of communication is body language. If they seem confused, try saying it a different way. A good teacher must be adaptable. [continued]





The Power of one. [continued]

In the movie *Rocky Balboa* (2006), Rocky is talking to his son about the fight we're all in against life itself. He imparts to his son a message that resonated so deep with me:

"The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows. It's a very mean and nasty place and I don't care how tough you are it will beat you to your knees and keep you there permanently if you let it. You, me, or nobody is gonna hit as hard as life. But it ain't about how hard ya hit. **It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward.** How much you can take and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done!"

Perseverance is probably the most defining factor of a leader's legacy. If Thomas Edison had stopped after 5,000 failed attempts to create a lightbulb, our history would be very different. But he didn't stop and, even though he failed **5,000 more times** before finding the right method, he is honored for it.

You too will experience taxing difficulties, both in your future classroom and also in your undergraduate days. You may have a teacher who, sadly, is just a terrible teacher. You may have a roommate or a fellow officer on a team who makes it seem like their main goal in life is to find ways to just stress you out!

It may even be a parent or a family member. Maybe an illness affecting someone you love. It may be so bad that you just want to quit—quitting

school or even quitting your future job. But today, in the light of great leaders before us, I say this to you—**don't quit.**

The more life throws at you and the more you press on, the greater an example and leader you will be - not just to your future students and colleagues but to your world. **Stiffen your upper lip** and figure out, like Edison, how to make it work. Many years after a student has left your classroom, they will remember your name and everything about you. However, as the adage goes, **"Actions speak louder than words."**

What will you, as a teacher, leave civilization? Will you, like Aristotle, teach a new Alexander or dismiss him as ADD and fantastical? Be strong. Stay focused. Stay vigilant. Because it could be that one choice to say "yes, I will press on" that sets the stage for your future legacy.

Other individuals who have changed the world

- Martin Luther King
- Mother Teresa
- George Washington
- Beethoven
- Queen Victoria
- Charles Darwin
- Bill Gates
- Martin Luther
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Pope John Paul II
- Charlemagne
- Napoleon Bonaparte

Solve 99% of your problems [continued]

- ◆ **Speak up!:** Too many people complain about how they don't have such-and-such and how their superiors don't understand them. Then talk to them! Organize your thoughts, let them know how you feel, and say what you want. Worst case scenario is they don't comply with you, in which case, you're no less than where you started.
- ◆ **Be Organized:** Address one problem or issue at a time. Don't try to juggle 3 issues in one conversation. And avoid "rabbit trails" when you talk. Stay on task and you will accomplish your goal.
- ◆ **NEVER assume:** Assumptions are of the devil. They will get you in trouble faster than any other communication blunder yet can be so easily avoided. "How?" you ask? By following all the other ideas!



Smart—by Shel Silverstein

My dad gave me one dollar bill
'Cause I'm his smartest son,
And I swapped it for two shiny quarters
'Cause two is more than one!

And then i took the quarters
And traded them to Lou
For three dimes-i guess he don't know
that three is more than two!

Just then, along came old blind Bates
And just 'cause he can't see
He gave me four nickels for my three dimes,
And four is more than three!

And i took the nickels to Hiram Coombs
Down at the seed-feed store,
and the fool gave me five pennies for them,
And five is more than four!

And then i went and showed my dad,
and he got red in the cheeks
And closed his eyes and shook his head-
Too proud of me to speak!

Dominick's "keep it fresh" Music List

- **Need to stay focused?** - Trance is the way to go. Chilling vocals and a consistent beat keep you wide awake. Check out one of my favorite bands, *Above and Beyond*.
- **Just need to cry?** - *Damien Rice* is the man with a plan for you. Bring tissues.
- **Mood to party it up?!** - Through on some *Usher* hits or rock out to *Beastie Boys*. Whichever is your cup of par-tea. :)

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