Going Home
Reading your November issue was just like going home. I was 22 when I started teaching high school history and was “adopted” by two veterans in my department. They told me that to be a good history teacher, you had to have six things. First, knowledge of your subject and, more, you had to like it, too. Second, a liking for teenagers and involvement in scholarship drives, community projects, and campus activities, along with the personal encouragement and counseling that goes with good teaching of any kind.

Third, the ability to recognize a good story and to tell one. Give students good things to read—the text won’t do it—and tell them interesting stories. Fourth, flexibility. You had to mix up your approaches and not just do what had been done by the people who had taught you. Fifth, knowledge that you were teaching history, not children. You can’t learn it for them or make them learn it. And sixth, enthusiasm, because it’s contagious. Emerson had been right. Your aim is to make them want to learn it.

How refreshing it was to see these ideas expressed again almost a quarter century later in the articles by Crabtree, Tyson and Woodward, Parker, and Landfried. My mentors are long since gone from the high school classroom, but I'm sure they would be pleased to know their views are supported by research and expert opinion. It's a shame that teaching doesn't have a history when history has so many good teachers to pass it on.

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PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

The ASCD 1989 photo contest was a tremendous success. We had a record number of entries, and judging was very difficult. The photos were rated by our panel of judges on originality, relevance to education, artistic impression, technical quality, and series continuity. ASCD is proud to announce the following winners:

Single Photo
First place: Edward Wynne, Chicago, Ill. ($200)
Second place: Glen Vogenitz, Uniontown, Ohio ($100)
Third place: A. Jean Campbell, St. Clair Shores, Mich. ($50)

Series
First place: Robert Kalman, Rhinebeck, N.Y. ($400)
Second place: William F. McDermott, Glastonbury, Conn. ($200)
Third place: Polly Norman, Edina, Minn. ($100)

Essay
First place: Shery Willerton and Jan Spradling, Joplin, Mo. ($1000)
Second place: Debra S. McKay, Dallas, Tex. ($500)
Third place: J. R. Farkas, Window Rock, Ariz. ($250)

All photographs entered in the contest may appear in upcoming issues of Educational Leadership so keep your eye out. (Published photos will be credited to the photographer.) We wish to thank all those who entered and encourage you to try again next year!