

THE JOY OF WORLD CITIZENSHIP

A Practical Guide To a Critical Discipline

*“I am not an Athenian or a Greek,
but a citizen of the world.”*
- Socrates

*“Yes, I am a Hindu, I am also a
Jew, a Muslim, and a Christian...”*
- Gandhi

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John Muresianu
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INTRODUCTION

THE SEVEN AXIOMS OF THE WORLD CITIZENSHIP DISCIPLINE

- 1.) Technology has so shrunk the world that to be a responsible citizen of any country in the world today requires taking a global perspective, in effect, being a world citizen.
- 2.) To be a good world citizen is to do the best you can to learn as much as you can as fast as you can about yourself and the world so that your thoughts, words, and deeds will be such as to foster goodwill, peace, truth, justice, and freedom.
- 3.) World citizenship is a challenging discipline but one that can be taught.
- 4.) As with other difficult disciplines whether athletic, artistic, or mathematical, world citizenship can be taught well or poorly.
- 5.) Good teaching of any discipline requires both a relentless focus on achievement of a deep understanding of fundamental skills and something close to daily practice.
- 6.) The two fundamentals of world citizenship are self-respect and respect for others.
- 7.) These fundamentals can be strengthened through a rigorous discipline of analytical introspection and issue-related global data gathering and analysis.

The purpose of this book is to outline such a discipline. The author believes that this discipline will bring a deep joy to those who practice it.

Chapter One: *The Five Basic Tools*

The world citizenship discipline has at its core the idea that sustained, analytical thought about oneself and the world can be improved dramatically through the coordinated use of five tools: the what matters before/after test (WMBAT), the what matters journal (WMJ), the what matters grid (WMG), the what matters thematic sequence (WMTS), and the what matters conversation (WMC).

In the next five chapters, I will define each briefly and discuss how they relate to each other. Each alone can be of inestimable value. Together, the sky is the limit. And don't be confused by terminology. Not one of these tools is really new. They have been used for hundreds and in some cases thousands of years. It is the systematic integration of these time-honored tools that is new.

This is not going to be easy. Especially, the next chapter. But remember no one else has to see the "before test" but you and no one else has to grade it unless you want them to.

Chapter Two

The What Matters Before and After Test

Part One: Who am I?

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” MKG

Section One

1. Rank in order of their importance what you consider to be your greatest weaknesses and strengths as a human being in general and a citizen in particular.
2. What are you doing to lever your strengths and combat your weaknesses?
3. Do you track your daily progress on each front?
4. With what frequency do you track it?

Section Two

1. How would you rank order the following principles: survival, justice, freedom, and truth?
2. Do you feel strongly that any other ordering is wrong?
3. Is voting based on economic interest or partisan loyalty rather than principle a bad thing, a good thing, or inevitable?
4. Rank in order of their importance to you the groups to which you belong by choice or fate: race, creed, economic class, nation, sex, ideology, etc.

Part Two: What do I know about the world?

(How much do you have to know to qualify as an “informed citizen”?)

Section One

1. What are the seven great world ideologies (four religious, three secular)? What is the most sacred text of each? Who wrote it? When? What are its core tenets?
2. Explain the three to five most important similarities between the ideologies as well as a comparable number of differences.
3. What have been the greatest historical turning points of the last one hundred years? Discuss their causes, course, and consequences.

Section Two

1. Rank in order of importance the issues facing voters in the next national election.
2. Rank in order of importance the issues facing voters in the next state and local elections.
3. Summarize the pros and cons on each side of the top three issues, with the statistical and other facts used to support each argument.

Chapter Three: *The What Matters Journal*

The goal of this book is to boost your grade on the test in the last chapter. The first step to boosting your grade is the **what matters journal**.

I

Journaling involves the daily uncensored recording of observations, feelings, thoughts, and questions related to issues, events, public figures, ideas, trends pertaining to world citizenship (eg. war, peace, justice, freedom). Writing tends to discipline thought.

Journaling is a vehicle for sustaining thought for longer periods than would otherwise be possible. It provides a record of thought which can be returned to and be edited and analyzed. Journal entries are a data base to be analyzed as part of the self-discovery process.

II

Your what matters journal should have two parts: the “me” entries and the “world” entries. It might be convenient to use different color ink for the “me” from the “world” entries.

III

The “me” entries would involve the recording of observations about your feelings and thoughts and questions related to them. For example, you might observe that whenever Iraq comes up in a conversation, your blood pressure rises. You might take a moment to think about why that would be the case and whether that emotion is based on dispassionate analysis and knowledge or visceral partisan loyalty?

IV

The “world” entries could involve your summary of or response to an editorial on the subject of Iraq followed by a self-quiz such as taking out a blank sheet of paper and seeing if you can draw a map of Iraq that has any resemblance to reality. Another self-quiz would be: can I give a brief history of the major turning points in the history of Iraq’s relations with its neighbors?

Chapter Four: *The What Matters Grid*

Grids can take thought to a higher, more analytical level by forcing the drawing of distinctions along two or more axes. The simplest gridding of an issue, for example, could involve columns marked pro and con and the rows marked best argument, next best argument and third best argument respectively. The grid could get more sophisticated with more rows perhaps grouped into separate categories such as arguments, facts, statistics, and historical analogies. As with juggling or other simple skills, gridding may at first seem impossible, but with daily practice can become second nature as you proceed from one to two to three balls.

US Withdrawal from Iraq

	Pro	Con	Neutral	Decision
Argument #1				
Argument #2				
Argument #3				
Fact #1				
Fact #2				
Fact #3				
Statistic #1				
Statistic #2				
Statistic #3				
Precedent #1				
Precedent #2				
Precedent #3				
Interest #1				
Interest #2				
Interest #3				

CHAPTER FIVE

The What Matters Thematic Sequence

The multiplicity and complexity of important issues dictates the organization of a recurring monthly thematic sequence so that attention on a daily basis is not dispersed randomly across issues by headlines and sound bytes.

Sequencing provides continuity of thought and analysis and minimizes wheel re-invention.

Examples include:

Recurring Monthly Thematic Sequences

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Week One	Local	Foreign policy	War	North America
Week Two	State	Taxes	Poverty	Africa
Week Three	Nation	Jobs	Population	Asia
Week Four	World	Health care	Environment	Middle East

Recurring Daily Sequence

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Fact Day	Opinion Day	Decision Day	Prioritize	Compromise
Important	“stated”	Facts	Versus other issues Day	As if you had authority
Versus	Versus	Opinions	Based on principles/	Executive or
Unimportant	“hidden”	Interests	Interests	Legislative

Chapter Six

The What Matters Conversation

Conversing relates to the art of structuring group time to maximize the exchange of ideas by minimizing the friction created by the inability of participants to see themselves as others do. It involves rule sets with relate to meeting time allocation and the use of video technology as appropriate to help highlight the gap between self-perception and other perception.

CONVERSATION PROCESS

	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3
Equal Time (egg timer)			
How Monitor (video)			

DYNAMIC TIME USAGE

Who	What	How	Time
Facilitator	Facts	Oral/written	3 min
All	First Reaction	Written	1 min
All	First Reaction	Oral	5 min
Facilitator	Grids reactions	Wall grid	1 min
All	Second response	Written	1 min
Facilitator	Grids reactions	Wall grid	1 min
Discussion	Distinctions	Wall grid	3 min

APPENDICES

THE CITIZEN SELF DISCOVERY GRIDS

Before and After

	Interest	Principle	Comment
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			
Date			

	Strengths	Weaknesses	
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			
Date			

THE SAVING THE PLANET GRIDS

	What I Know	Don't Know	Can Know	Learning Plan
US history				
Non-US history				
Economics				
Domestic Politics				
Foreign Policy				

WHEN DON'T KNOW WHOM DO I DEFER TO?

Family	Press	Priest	Industry
Father/Mother		Religious	Union
Sibling	Radio pundit	leader	Management
Gut Instinct			

WHAT MATTERS HISTORY:

The Primary Lessons: one human's view, what are yours?

Before and After Grids

Universals	Specific #1	Specific #2	Specific #3
All great religions have same core principles	First Two: Be Kind; Be thankful; (praise the lord) and Golden Rule	Third principle: Following first two is very hard; you need a discipline	Fourth principle: Discipline must be practiced daily.
Power corrupts	Kings and popes	Caliphs and Sultans	Emperors and Presidents
Progress is real	Circles of peace have expanded across huge expanses of territory	Disease and Poverty have Been reduced by undreamed of proportions	Despotism has been minimized in many geographies.
Paradox rules	Best intentions can have the worst consequences. And vice versa.	Less is often more. Reaching for more you can lose everything.	following self-interest can maximize the common good.
Open wins	Islam's strength from 630-1600	China's strength from 1990 to present	US strength 1776-Present
Truth hurts	Legacy of slavery	Legacy of native Americans	Especially Truth about yourself
Impossible isn't	Fall of Berlin Wall and apartheid	Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Henry VIII	airplane Shakespeare penicillin

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

Self respect	Respect for Others	When to Compromise	When not to Compromise	Making Rules	Obeying Rules
Courage	Self-control	Prioritizing	Prioritizing	Spirit	Spirit
Standing up For rights	Listening	Deciding	Thinking	Letter	Letter
Self-knowledge	Curiosity	Thinking	Deciding	Principles	Principles
	Compassion			Interests	Interests

Understanding the Conflicts/Finding the Best Balance

	Truth	Freedom	Justice	Peace
Peace				
Justice				
Freedom				
Truth				

Making Distinctions and Making Connections

	Important	Unimportant	Fact	Opinion
History				
Motives				
Consequences				
Principles				
Interests				

THE FIVE BY FIVE GRIDS

Before and After

US

Rank	Event	Person	Book	Quote	Statistic
#1					
#2					
#3					
#4					
#5					

NON-US

REASONS US

REASONS NON-US

THE JOURNAL ENTRY

I

	Text	Person	Decision	Event	Other
Observation					
Feeling					
Thought					
Question					

II Phases

Pre-writing	Writing - 1	Writing - 2	Writing - 3
Entries Dictated	Words, Sentence fragments	Complete Sentence Per day	Paragraph Per day

III - Types

	Standard	Topic-specific	Open-ended
Observations			
Feelings			
Thoughts			
Questions			
Other			

IV - Perspectives

	Self	Peers	Teacher
Data			
Arguments			
Priorities			
Tone/Look			
Other			

THE CITIZEN CONVERSATION

DISTINCTIONS

	Issue	Facts	Opinion
Important			
Unimportant			
Irrelevant			

The World Citizen Journal

Record	Continuity	Link	Skill-builder
Data Bank	Time thread	Life glue	All basics
Can't learn from past if can't remember it	No continuity, Constant wheel Re-invention	Connects home And school and Work and play	Writing: 3 stages: Sentence, paragraph, Essay
If don't record it at time, won't remember it the way it actually happened	No continuity No depth of thought	Same patterns Apply across All activities	Science: observe, ask, guess, test, tell, record, iterate
If don't record it with significant details, won't learn lessons to be learned			Math: world problems and statistics manipulation

WHO AM I /KNOW YOURSELF GRIDS

MY STRENGTHS

"Virtue"	Example	Lever	Daily Action
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			

MY WEAKNESSES

"Vice"	Example	Lever	Daily Action
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			

*Which half of citizenship is my stronger suit?
Standing up for myself or respecting others?*