

THE TED CONFERENCE AND TED.COM I've drunk the Kool-aid and why you should, too

Review by Luci McKean, NSRF Special
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If you haven't heard of the TED Conference, then find 20 minutes, visit TED.com, pick a video tagged education (or anything else), and prepare to be optimistic ... for good reason. (Also prepare to get hooked and spend hours there, 20 minutes at a time. It's like potato chips, but good for you.)

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading and its videos are viewed in classrooms and offices around the world. Started 25 years ago, the annual TED Conference invites the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for no more than 18 minutes each. Their talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Al Gore, Jane Goodall, Sir Ken Robinson, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, and Isabel Allende.

In addition to hundreds of videos appropriate for education at TED.com, Connections readers should also check out the recently launched [TED-ED initiative at YouTube](#). These original videos harness the talent of great teachers and visualizers, extending great lessons beyond a single classroom to anyone with internet access. Typically, these videos are just five minutes long, designed for use in any learning environment, bringing big concepts to life and catalyzing curiosity.

I encourage NSRF educators to contribute lesson plans on any topic through [TED-ED's open submission process](#). TED-ED will select lesson submissions and match them with chosen visualizers to create video lessons worth learning, watching, and sharing.

Full Disclosure: As curator for [TEDxBloomington](#), I recently attended the TEDActive conference. While TED fans joke that we've "drunk the Kool-aid" or "joined the cult," once you've watched a few of these short talks, it's difficult to talk about TED without effusiveness (or mixed metaphors, apparently).

If you'd like to "talk TED," please email Luci.

New opportunity! Experienced Coaches' Seminar July 9-11, 2012, \$480

Facilitated by NSRF Facilitator Katy Kelly

The Experienced Coaches' Seminar is intended for people who have already experienced a full five-day NSRF New Coaches' Critical Friends Group Seminar and would like to continue to develop their skills as a CFG coach or facilitative leader.

Are you a CFG coach who is:

- Wondering how to help colleagues delve deeper into CFG work?
- Interested in learning new protocols?
- Wondering how to begin or support ongoing CFG work in your school or district?
- Committed to strengthening your facilitation skills?
- Looking for help working through coaching dilemmas?

In this Experienced Coaches' Seminar, you will have an opportunity to explore these questions and more with other CFG coaches and NSRF facilitative leaders. The three day institute will be crafted from the needs of the participants who attend. In addition to providing experiences to answer the questions above, we will engage in conversations around coaching successes and challenges.

To join this seminar, call 812-330-2702 or [complete the form linked here](#) to pay \$480 for your participation. Sign up early and let us know what you, as an experienced coach, most want to learn!

Katy Kelly's association with NSRF began in 1995 when, as a classroom teacher, she became part of her first CFG. By 1998, she became a CFG coach, and went on to become a facilitator and national coordinator of NSRF in 2000. Currently she works with children and families as a home-based psychotherapist. CFG principles and facilitative leadership skills permeate all that she does.