

Keynote Address

Oct. 28, 2021

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CADRE's 8th National Symposium
on Dispute Resolution in
Special Education

What led me to create Peace Literacy was the realization that very little in our current education system helps people address their trauma, rage, alienation, and mistrust.



Part of what we try to do at the **Peace Literacy Institute** is to **bridge these gaps** by providing teacher training in **Peace Literacy**, for pre-K to 12th grade and higher education.



Our **Peace Literacy** workshops combine **West Point's** leadership training with the disciplined vision of the **Civil Rights** leaders with whom I studied after I left the military.





Peace Literacy is informed by 3 main questions:

- 1. What if people were as well-trained in waging peace as soldiers are in waging war?**
- 2. What if we were trained to address the root causes of problems rather than the symptoms?**
- 3. What if we taught peace as a skill set, as a life-saving literacy, with as much rigor as we teach reading and math?**



**Our understanding of peace is only
as good as our understanding of
the human condition.**



What do human beings

need?

Typically, people list physical needs.

Because we have been influenced by Maslow's hierarchy.

**But what about our
non-physical needs?**

WE HAVE NINE
NON-PHYSICAL NEEDS

PURPOSE AND MEANING

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

EXPLANATIONS

EXPRESSION

INSPIRATION

BELONGING

SELF-WORTH

CHALLENGE

TRANSCENDENCE

**Traumatic experiences can
get tangled in these needs**

**The resulting tangles of trauma
or emotional experiences
are predictable and familiar.**

OUR NINE
NON-PHYSICAL NEEDS

PURPOSE AND MEANING

NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

EXPLANATIONS

EXPRESSION

INSPIRATION

BELONGING

SELF-WORTH

CHALLENGE

TRANSCENDENCE

TRAUMATIC
EXPERIENCES



TANGLES OF TRAUMA
(EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES)

MEANINGLESSNESS, NIHILISM

MISTRUST

DISILLUSIONMENT, RUTHLESS WORLDVIEW

RAGE

NUMBNESS, CYNICISM

ALIENATION

SHAME, SELF-LOATHING

HELPLESSNESS

ADDICTION, ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOR

We have an online Leadership Series for navigating struggle, uncertainty, and crisis, that is organized around each of the non-physical needs and can be used as discussion prompts for communities of practice.

As leaders in dispute resolution, we welcome you to make use of the series: peaceliteracy.org/leadership



Those of you working in Special Education might also be interested in how we use this understanding of non-physical needs and trauma to reform models of positive behavioral interventions and support:

Visit peaceliteracy.org/pbis for materials on this topic.

All of our curriculum and support materials are available for free.



Peace Literacy is Survival Literacy

For more info, visit our website:
peaceliteracy.org

and be sure to sign up for our
newsletter!

Thank you!

