

Why do ignoramuses teach in San Diego?

by Lev Tsitrin



Not every profession is knowledge-based. A worker at an assembly line only needs to know where to attach the part assigned to him, and a taxi driver hardly needs to know more than the roads in and around his town. They may know nothing else, and still be excellent at their jobs.

But how about people whose job it is to pass knowledge to others – the teachers? Should their own knowledge be adequate? Is there a problem when teachers don't know what they are talking about?

I think that would be a problem – for a simple reason that teachers are authority figures to the students. Student's tacit acknowledgment that a teacher knows more, and hence needs to be listened to, is the cornerstone of the profession. Teaching is based on a respect for teachers' superior knowledge. Without it, no teaching is possible

So what happens when teachers are wrong in what they are teaching? How does it affect students?

I never gave it a thought until reading this news article, “