



# John Dewey: Democracy and Education, an Introduction to the Philosophy of Education

*John Dewey*

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**John Dewey: Democracy and Education, an Introduction to the Philosophy of Education** John Dewey (1859–1952), writer of *Democracy and Education*, was an American philosopher, psychologist, and educational reformer. The ideas like those in *Democracy and Education* have been very influential to education and social reform. In the classic book, *Democracy and Education*, John Dewey asserted that complete democracy was to be obtained not just by extending voting rights but also by ensuring that there exists a fully-formed public opinion. *Democracy and Education* asserts that this is accomplished by effective communication among citizens, experts, and politicians, with the latter being accountable for the policies they adopt. In addition to *Democracy and Education*, John Dewey's most significant writings were "The Reflex Arc Concept in Psychology" (1896), a critique of a standard psychological concept and the basis of all his further work; *Human Nature and Conduct* (1922), a study of the function of habit in human behavior; *The Public and its Problems* (1927), a defense of democracy written in response to Walter Lippmann's *The Phantom Public* (1925); *Experience and Nature* (1925), John Dewey's most "metaphysical" statement; *Art as Experience* (1934), John Dewey's major work on aesthetics; *A Common Faith* (1934), a humanistic study of religion originally delivered as the Dwight H. Terry Lectureship at Yale; *Logic: The Theory of Inquiry* (1938), a statement of John Dewey's unusual conception of logic; *Freedom and Culture* (1939), a political work examining the roots of fascism; and *Knowing and the Known* (1949), a book written by John Dewey in conjunction with Arthur F. Bentley that systematically outlines the concept of transaction, which is central to his other works. *Democracy and Education* was John Dewey's 1916 work on progressive education. While each of John Dewey's works focus on one particular philosophical theme, he included his major themes in most of what he published. In addition to *Democracy and Education*, John Dewey published more than 700 articles in 140 journals, and approximately 40 books. John Dewey's main interests were: Philosophy of education, Epistemology, Journalism, and Ethics. *Democracy and Education* is a must read book for educators and philosophers worldwide.

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