

New School or Old?

How do the distinctions listed below compare with your own experience? Are they valid descriptions?

The best of what's to come in the world doesn't have to abandon principles that make sense. It will be new and exciting, and it will work for a lot of the same reasons that the best in the past has worked. As a player, you have a chance to respond to what's going on around you on the ice; you'll do it in new and exciting ways, and it will work for the same reasons that great play in the past has worked.

Traditional wisdom:

- Become an active participant in learning and in life.
- Truth is discovered by study and reflection.
- The essential ingredient in achievement is effort.
- Informed opinions are more valuable than uninformed opinions.
- Adhere to a moral standard more demanding than personal preference.
- Intellectual activities can be rewarding and satisfying.
- Self-improvement involves changing one's self.
- Place a high value on critical thinking, and value its development.
- Practice self-discipline and make your life count.

Mass Culture:

- In opposition to active living, mass culture promotes a spectator mentality and a desire to be entertained.
- In opposition to objective truth, mass culture extols subjective, design-it-yourself reality—"If I believe it, then it is true for me."
- In opposition to achievement through effort, mass culture promotes achievement through proclamation—"I am good, I am talented, I am wonderful."
- In opposition to informed opinion, mass culture suggests that all opinions are equally worthy of merit.
- In opposition to a demanding moral standard, mass culture extols doing whatever feels good.
- In opposition to intellectual activities, mass culture teaches that the only satisfying activities are those that dazzle the senses.
- In opposition to improvement through constructive change, mass culture promotes accepting and asserting one's self and inflicting self on others.
- In opposition to thinking, mass culture (particularly the advertising industry) plays on the public's needs and desires and prompts people to suspend critical judgment and accept biased testimony as fact.
- In opposition to self-discipline, mass culture lauds immoderation and lack of restraint.