

**New Eyes-A Memorial to Zig Engelmann
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A few years ago, I asked my dad what his favorite quote was. I thought he would respond with something fiery like David Hume's, "...commit it then to the flames for it can contain nothing but sophistry and illusion."

His answer surprised me. It was Marcel Proust's quote, "The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in seeing with new eyes."

Initially I was a little disappointed that his favorite didn't better reflect his irreverent approaches to problem solving and tradition. But since then, as I learned more about life and being a good Direct Instruction author, the more I understood the depth of Proust's quote and how **invention** and **seeing with new eyes** are inseparable.

Before Thoreau, Longfellow and Frank Lloyd Wright, created one of their classic works, they looked at tired subject matter that multitudes had examined before them, and saw it with **new eyes**. For Newton, the Wright Brothers and Einstein to make their breakthroughs, they first had to look with new eyes just to **find** the problems they needed to solve, then use another new pair to solve them.

So it was when my father invented Direct Instruction. He looked at the problem of student failure, a subject that multitudes had examined before him, and saw it with new eyes. He was not bound by the traditions of educational dogma. He made whatever changes were warranted based on the data and what his new eyes revealed. He looked at learners with new eyes and transformed inefficient lectures into effective quick paced interactions. He looked at language, math and reading and reorganized those subjects, leading to dramatically improved student performance and understanding.

When it came to analyzing subjects and designing instruction, metaphorically my dad was playing 3D chess while everyone else was playing tic-tac-toe.

Using new eyes, my dad and other DI authors created instructional programs that work for all kids – programs with the capacity to maximally accelerate high performers and to ensure success and self-esteem for all students.

Here today are many of the elite DI **teachers, trainers and implementers**. As my dad would say, “Your work is where the rubber meets the road.” My dad’s work would not matter without you to deliver it. For helping kids and upholding that part of my dad’s legacy, I thank you!

Another significant part of my dad’s legacy includes a paradigm for creating effective and efficient instructional programs for teaching any skill. The crux of that paradigm hinges on ... seeing with new eyes. When working on programs, DI authors must simultaneously see each task from the learner’s point of view and, at the same time, see the program’s terminal skills. The learner’s point of view, which is ever changing, tells us if our instruction is in the right place and the terminal-skills-point-of-view keeps our instruction going in the right direction.

My fellow DI authors, many of you who are here today, your skills, which includes your abilities to see with new eyes, and your determination impresses and humbles me. Without your skills and sacrifices, my dad wouldn’t have achieved his accomplishments. I thank you and the world thanks you ... on so many levels!

There is a problem that we need help solving, that my father was unable to solve during his lifetime. Despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that Direct Instruction is the best method of teaching, DI has never been accepted into mainstream education.

Perhaps naively, I believe that with coordinated efforts from Authors, practitioners, our publisher, whose representatives traveled great distances to be here, today our awesome development staffs, the world-wide DI community, and with help from all of you here today using new eyes we

can find the Public Relations work needed in arenas yet unknown so we can expand my dad's legacy, to save not just the hundreds of thousands of kids DI preemptively saves every year now, but to save the tens of millions of mainstream kids who suffer failure in schools every year.

Thank you for honoring my dad!