**Education Philosophy**

*“True education is not pumped and crammed in from outward sources, but aids in bringing to the surface the infinite hoard of wisdom within.”* Rabindranath Tagore (Yogananda, 1998) (\*Indian poet received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913.)

I think the following poem written by a Kahuku student several years ago shows a belief similar to Rabindranath Tagore. Read this poem. Discuss it with your neighbor. Think about it!

**Anonymous poem by Kahuku student (2005)**

Untitled

So what if I wrote on paper too small

or didn’t do my homework with the

same goodie two shoes handwriting as that

always smiling, transfixed by your

every word, girl, who wears shirts with flowers on them

and sits in the front row every day.

You make examples of my work to

the class and say I have no pride in

my work.

Well I didn’t come into your class

to honor you as my god

or awe at your seemingly endless

knowledge

Don’t belittle me, because I see through

your mask of perfection.

I did not come to your class as

an empty head waiting to be injected

full of your infinite truths.

I’m not here to serve you on your high

throne

You are to help me discover

my own knowledge

**Journal Assignment**

1. Write a reflection on the student poem above. Use the following questions to get you going.

a.) How do you think this student felt about his or her teacher? And why?

b.) Whatdo you think this student means when he or she says “I see through you mask of perfection”?

c.) What line or lines in the student poem are similar to the ideas of Tagore quoted above?

d.) How do you feel about the idea that you have wisdom within that just needs to be brought to the surface? (Can you feel it?)

# Bibliography

Yogananda, P. (1998). *Autobiography of a Yogi.* Los Angeles: Self-Realization Fellowship.