

***AMERICAN IDEALIST:  
The Story of Sargent Shriver***

As you view the story, *what can we learn from Sargent Shriver that can be applied to the re-development of educational policy for the next decade?*

[Prepare your notes overnight for our discussions on Saturday afternoon]

- What was the policy impact of Shriver’s frantic trip to O’Hare Airport to meet JFK during the campaign and the subsequent phone call re *Martin Luther King* and the *1960 U.S. election*? How does that remain with us today, even though we are not Americans...?

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- There is considerable attention given to the influence of the home, and particularly his mother...
  - How did his parents themselves try to impact *macro policy making* in the U.S.A.?
  - How did this influence Sargent Shriver’s approach to policy-making?

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- To what extent does participation in World War II influence Shriver’s outlook on politics and humanity and how does this all relate to his policy making?

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- How does his taking on the *Peace Corps* fit with this?
- How & why does he differentiate between the *Peace Corps* and *internships*?

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- Why does Shriver talk about the **foremost ideal** to be **service**? And, how ought this manifest itself in education policy development?

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- In the story there are references to human respect & dignity:
  - Why are these pre-requisites for any hope of winning the war on poverty?

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- How does this all connect to the *politics of service*? What is the relevance to developing educational policy?

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- What is the significance of *turning to the Law*? Where has this seemingly have the most impact on educational policy development?

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- Consider the child development group in Mississippi:
  - How did public policy impact it?
  - In turn how did it impact educational thinking (& subsequent action)?

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- In Shriver's battle with Stennis, where were the critics most in error when they took out the ad: *Say it isn't so, Sargent!*

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- In the budget fiasco where Congress permitted the lapsing of OEO \$\$, should Shriver have resigned? Explain:

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- Why did Shriver take the Ambassadorship re France in 1968, *the darkest year in U.S. history*?

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- What do these events have to do with Shriver’s approach to policy giving attention to his concern for *loss of hope*:
  - the **peace** and **Chicago riots**
  - the *run-up* to the Vice-Presidential selection
  - the attitude of the Kennedy klan
  - the comment: *the palace guard without a palace*

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- Why do you think he became so involved in the *Special Olympics* program? And, what was the significance of this decision?

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- In conclusion:
  - Did he win? Explain:

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- Was/is he a leading policy-maker? Analyse:

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- To what degree was/is he an ethical human?

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