**TED Conference**

**Subject: Teach teachers how to create magic**

The conference is about Teachers and how to make teaching more attractive for students in classrooms.

The speaker gives two examples of people.

* The first category is people who are involved in education without any engagement:
* There is an aspiring teacher in a graduate school of education who is watching a professor babble on and on about engagement in the most disengaging way possible.
* There's a first-year teacher at home who is pouring through lesson plans trying to make sense of standards, who is trying to make sense of how to grade students appropriately, while at the same time saying to herself over and over again, "Don't smile till November," because that's what she was taught in her teacher education program.

The second category is people who are an inspiration or a good model for other because they have a kind of magic in the way they share information:

* There are amazing educators that are sharing information, information that is shared in such a beautiful way that the students are sitting at the edge of their seats just waiting for a bead of sweat to drop off the face of this person so they can soak up all that knowledge.
* There's a person who can tell an audience to put their hands up in the air and they will stay there till he says, "Put them down.".

The speaker says that this second category is unfortunately very rare among teachers. They are found in places such as Barber shops, rap concerts, and most importantly, in the black church.

For example in the black church , the preacher starts off and he realizes that he has to engage the audience, so he starts off with this sort of wordplay in the beginning oftentimes, and then he takes a pause, and he says, "Oh my god, they're not quite paying attention." So he says, "Can I get an amen?". That preacher bangs on the pulpit for attention. He drops his voice at a very, very low volume when he wants people to key into him, and those things are the skills that we need for the most engaging teachers.

The speaker says, if you want to be an aspiring teacher in urban education, you've got to leave the confines of that university and go into the hood. You've got to go in there and hang out at the barbershop, you've got to attend that black church, and you've got to view those folks that have the power to engage and just take notes on what they do.