

# MATT'S NOTES

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

2026



A lot of my contribution to the EnT consists in metaphors.

My process for any given episode, for anyone interested, goes something like this:

1. Get the notes from Doug in a Google doc
2. Come up a title for the show\*

\*Doug chooses the topic as part of his process. For my part, I then find a song title that goes with the topic in some way. Sometimes it's obvious from the get-go; more often, it's a time-consuming affair. For the way my part works, the full episode title then leads to the media elements: gifs, Unsplash images, music from Pixabay, and, increasingly, AI generated or enhanced images and video



The process of putting these elements together becomes a metaphor of sorts for educational processes and issues which we speak to during the recording sessions.

Our "conversations about education, technology, and culture" use education as a point of departure to address other topics, go down various rabbit holes, and to cover all kinds of terrain. Education becomes kind of a touchstone for other issues, personally and in other, larger, more far-reaching kind of ways.

At least I hope so.

At one point in my twenties, I hoped that I could be a good overseas ESL teacher. And I was. Then, I thought I could be an OK secondary English or Social Studies educator.



That led to being an overseas college teacher. It was all going well.

I put a lot of stock in the notion of using university education to enhance my career, and accordingly, my financial prospects and quality of life overall.

The shift was with the doctorate. Somewhere along the way, I decided that the best thing I could be was a university educator of some kind.

Now, more than a decade later, and with the benefit of a whole lot of life experience, I can see some of the holes in that thinking.

Water filled the boat in dribs and drabs.

The good news: I've found my way ashore, doing meaningful work which directly benefits myself, my family, and the wider community.



It's well outside the university setting, and it makes only tangential use of the credentials and training I invested myself in over many years.

Life has something different and specific for each of us, to be sure.

This has caused me to think differently about my involvement with this podcast. Education is something in my rearview mirror. I blinked my eyes and twenty years went by.

So, while there's lots of places to go with this episode, about the "universitization" of education, I'm thinking of this one in highly personal terms: where I've been in my career and life and where I might be going over the next couple of decades.



One thing is certain: I would love it if in 2046, at age 68, Doug and I are still doing this podcast, even if I never set foot on another university or college campus again between now and then.

Thanks as ever to Doug for a compelling topic and engaging conversation, and thanks to you to spending some time with us in any way, shape, or form, for whatever reasons!

