

# LIFE LESSONS

This is a two page exercise by Dan Conroy, Professional Teacher. It was from many on-line sources using the *Bing* search engine. The message is very clear, check out your sources from many different point of view to make sure the information is accurate and that you are giving credit, where credit is due.

It is shared to correct the rumour that this was a speech given by Bill Gates at a High School Grauation. It was not! Check out the information for yourself at: [www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/b/billgatespeech.htm](http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/b/billgatespeech.htm).

Following is the excerpt from the book *Dumbing Down Our Kids* by educator Charles Sykes that was attributed to Bill Gates. It gives eleven rules about things you did not learn in school. Charles Sykes was, in his book, talking about how feel-good, politically-correct teachings have created a generation of kids with no concept of reality, and how this concept sets them up for failure in the real world.

**RULE 1:**

**Life is not fair - get used to it.**

**RULE 2:**

**The world does not care about your self-esteem.  
The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.**

**RULE 3:**

**You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school.  
You will not be a vice president with a car phone, until you EARN both.**

**RULE 4:**

**If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.  
He does not have tenure.**

**RULE 5:**

**Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity.  
Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping, they called it Opportunity.**

**RULE 6:**

**If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, instead, learn from them.**

**RULE 7:**

**Before you were born, your parents were not as boring as they are now.  
They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes,  
and listening to you talk about how cool you are.  
So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation,  
try delousing the closet in your own room.**

**RULE 8:**

**Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not.  
In some schools they have abolished failing grades,  
and they will give you as many times as you want to get the right answer.  
This does not bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.**

**RULE 9:**

**Life is not divided into semesters.  
You do not get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself.  
Do that on your own time!**

**RULE 10:**

**Television is NOT real life.  
In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.**

**RULE 11:**

**Be nice to nerds.  
Chances are you'll end up working for one.**

No-one checks the information anyone places on-line to see if it is true and/or accurate or not—there are no Internet Police checking the information you see on-line. You need to exercise caution when you are using any information that you receive from an internet source. As you saw on the previous page, this story was being passed on by people like it was from a Bill Gates presentation to High School students. I received it from a teacher with an Alberta School Board. He/she certainly thought it was accurate. Be smart, when you want to use something from the internet, check it out before you do.

In this example it was easy to check. By going to search engines like **Bing**, or **Google Chrome** and entering the name Bill Gates, you are directed to the Microsoft Internet Site. By navigating around the site you could quickly find an archive that lists all Bill Gates’ speeches over the last 10 years. Then, by using the Microsoft internal search engine—by putting key words about the speech as the search parameters—you quickly find that this speech was not from Bill Gates. Reputable companies, like Microsoft, will direct you to other web sites if what you are looking for is not on theirs. By clicking on the Microsoft link to other web sites, the first link was to a web site that gave the correct information: it was not a Bill Gates Speech—they politely said it was a rumour—in reality, someone had lied and had made up this so called **FACT** and was passing it around as the truth.

If you stop checking after one source, you have not gone far enough. Find the same information using two other sources. By searching on the correct Authors’ name and the title of the book you confirm that the facts you found are correct: It was not Bill Gates that spoke these words to a graduation class at a High School, it was an excerpt from a book (**Dumbing Down Our Kids**) by educator Charles Sykes.

**Internet Activity:**

List, on the lines below, some information or a story you would like to check out on-line:

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Describe, on the lines below, the process you went through to check the accuracy of this on-line (Internet) information:

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Was it accurate:   YES   NO  
Did you check it out from more than one source:   YES   NO  
How many sources did you use?   1   2   3   4   5   6