

**A New Vision for Parabola in the Classroom:
To Learn is to Do**



Part I:

Learners will read *A Shift in Vision* by Barbara Helen Berger from *The Unknown* issue of Parabola magazine. A .pdf file of the article is available on the Parabola website.

Part II:

On a separate piece of paper, learners will write a reflective essay on the article; identifying the author's thesis, significant supporting facts, and conclusions.

Part III:

Each learner will identify a favorite painting via the Internet or the library and on a separate piece of paper, will draw the spaces in the painting as Ms. Berger once was required to do in art class. As Ms. Berger wrote on page 16 of the article, “For weeks we had been drawing the contours of objects in a still life. He [the teacher] had not allowed us even to look down at the paper while our eyes traced along the shapes of the pitcher, the lemons, the pile of wooden blocks, and our soft-lead pencils followed. Then one day he rearranged the still life and said, “Now. Do not draw the objects at all. Draw the spaces between them. Only the spaces.”



Part IV:

Learners will present their drawings to the class and write a response to Ms. Berger’s conclusion that “Any life of art or spirit would always mean reaching into that unknown space toward what I love, but can’t quite touch or hold. In the beautifully measured stillness of his painting, Piero assured me that the mystery will always be there, and from its depth, I too will bloom.”