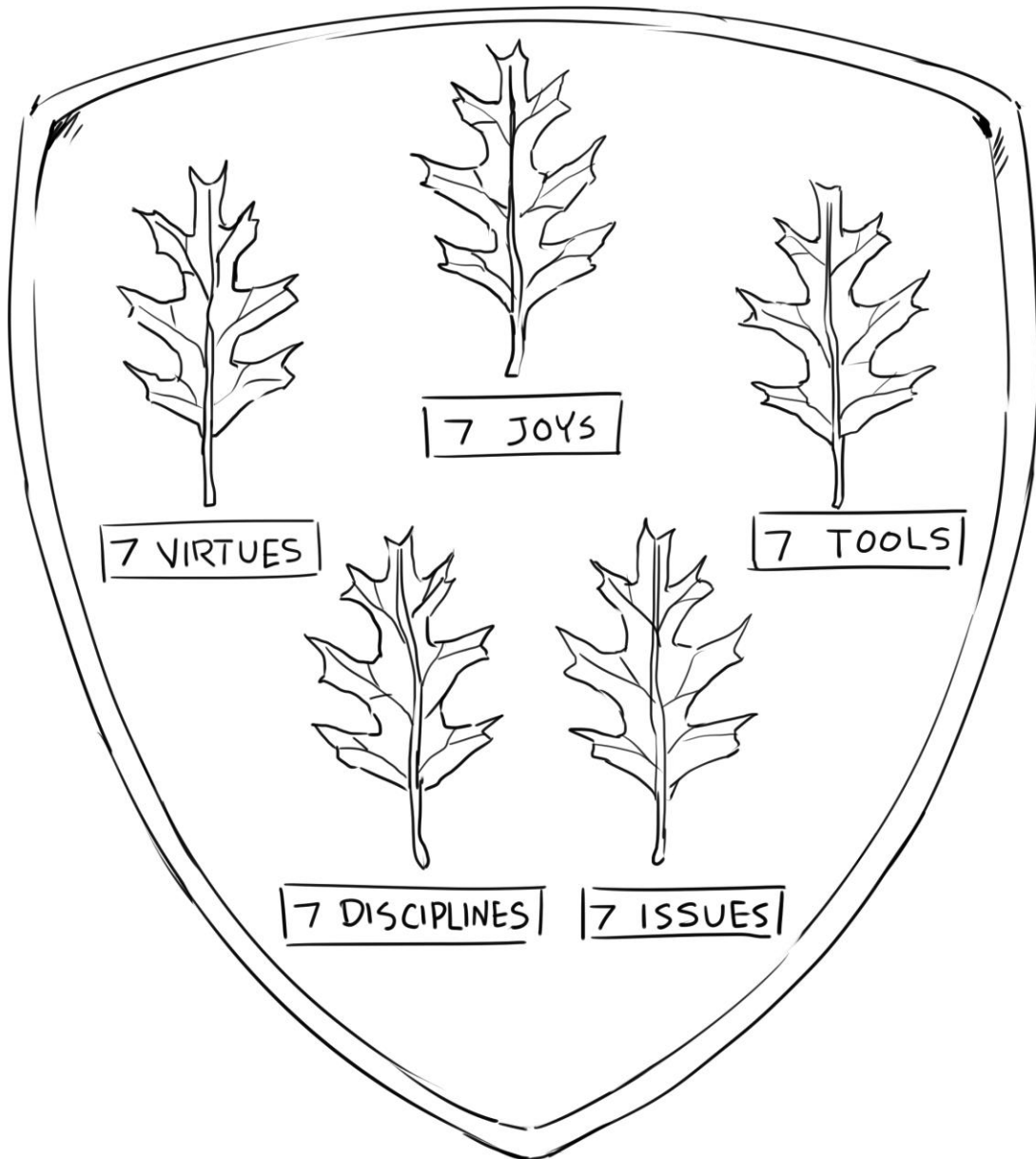


# Re-Imagining Education

*Simple, but not too simple*



John Muresianu

# Re-Imagining Education

## The Argument

Without the experience of the seven joys of words, numbers, experiments, civics, music, art, and sports, informed life choices can not be made.

Without training in the seven virtues of gratitude, courage, kindness, prudence, temperance, diligence, and excellence, full character development will be difficult to achieve.

Without the coordinated use of the thematic journal, thematic matrix, thematic conversation, thematic calendar, thematic checklist, thematic capstone, and the thematic before and after test, mastery of the seven joys and seven virtues will be slower than otherwise.

Without a basic understanding of the fundamentals of economics, statistics, rhetoric, political science, history, ethics, and science, civic literacy is impossible.

Without years of rigorous application of these principles to the issues of foreign policy, economy, justice, health care, education, climate change, and political process, decisions at the ballot box will be based on prejudice more than analysis.

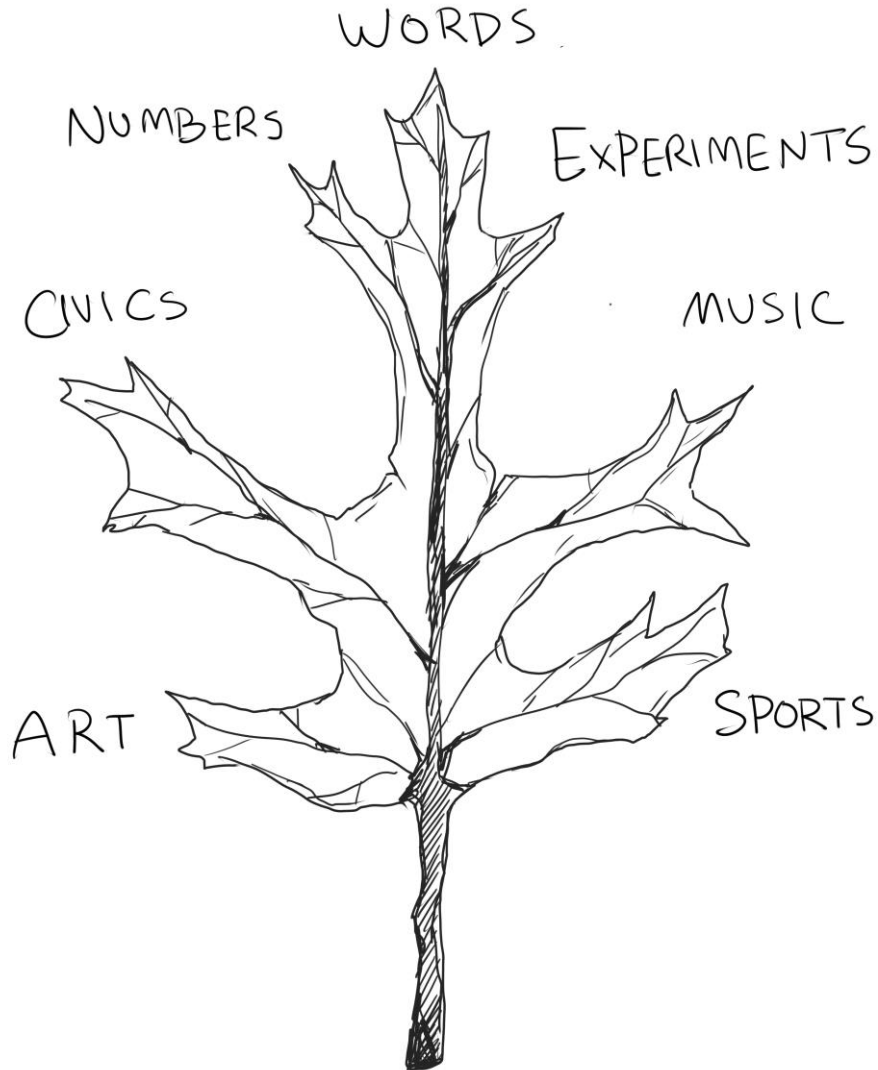
# Re-Imagining Education

## Seven Joys

*Through Discipline to Joy*

**From**  
I can't!  
I don't like!

**To**  
Wow! I can!  
Wow! This is so cool!



**Words:** the joy of poems, prose, rhyme, rhythm, stories, reasoned argument

**Numbers:** the joy of counting, calculating, and Euclidean proofs

**Experiments:** the joy of chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, geology

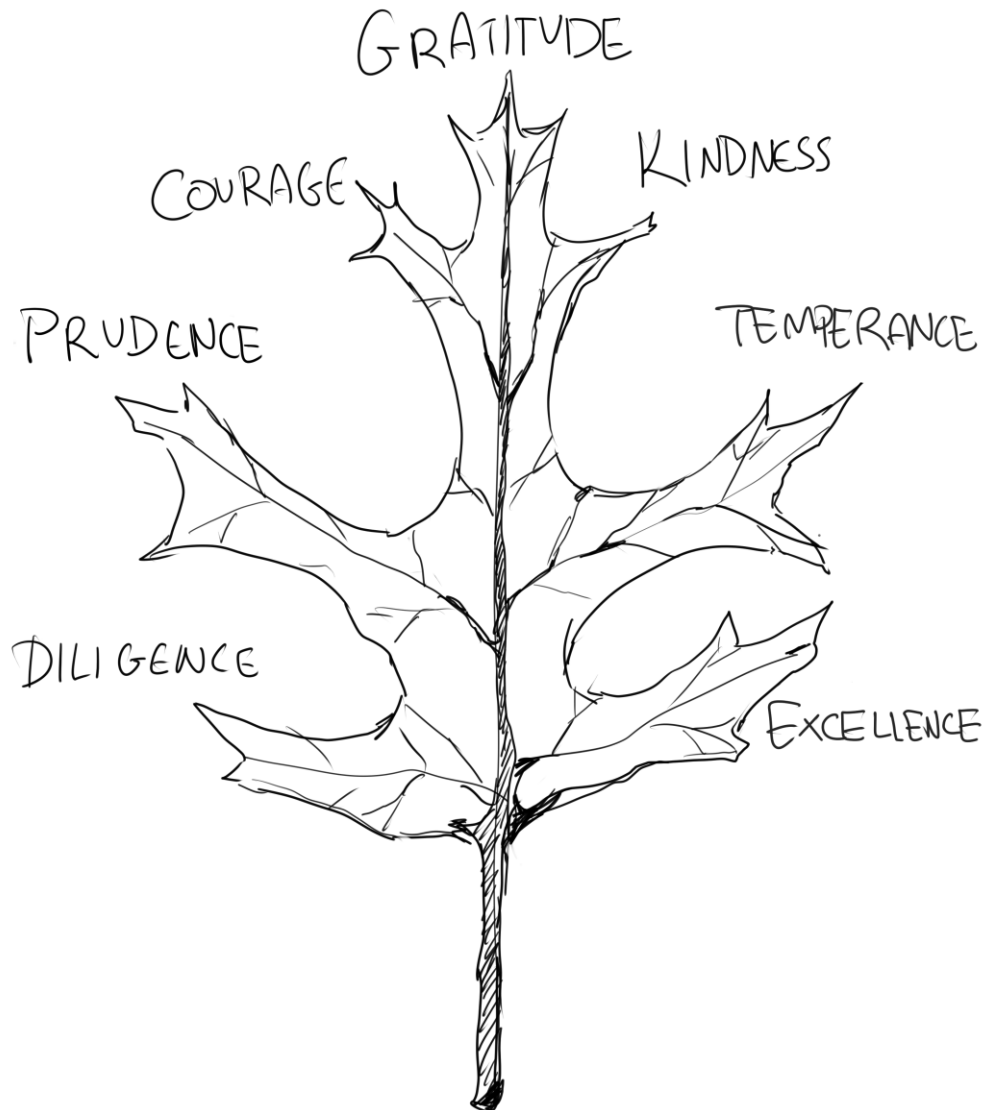
**Civics:** the joy of history, of shared humanity, and rich cultural diversity

**Music:** the joy of melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, dynamics, song, orchestration

**Art:** the joy of drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, film, design

**Sports:** the joy of dance, sports, flexibility, strength, speed, agility

# Re-Imagining Education Seven Virtues



**Cicero:** "Gratitude is not only the first of the virtues but the parent of all the others."

**Aristotle:** "Courage is the first of the virtues because it makes all others possible"

**Corinthians:** "Without love, I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal."

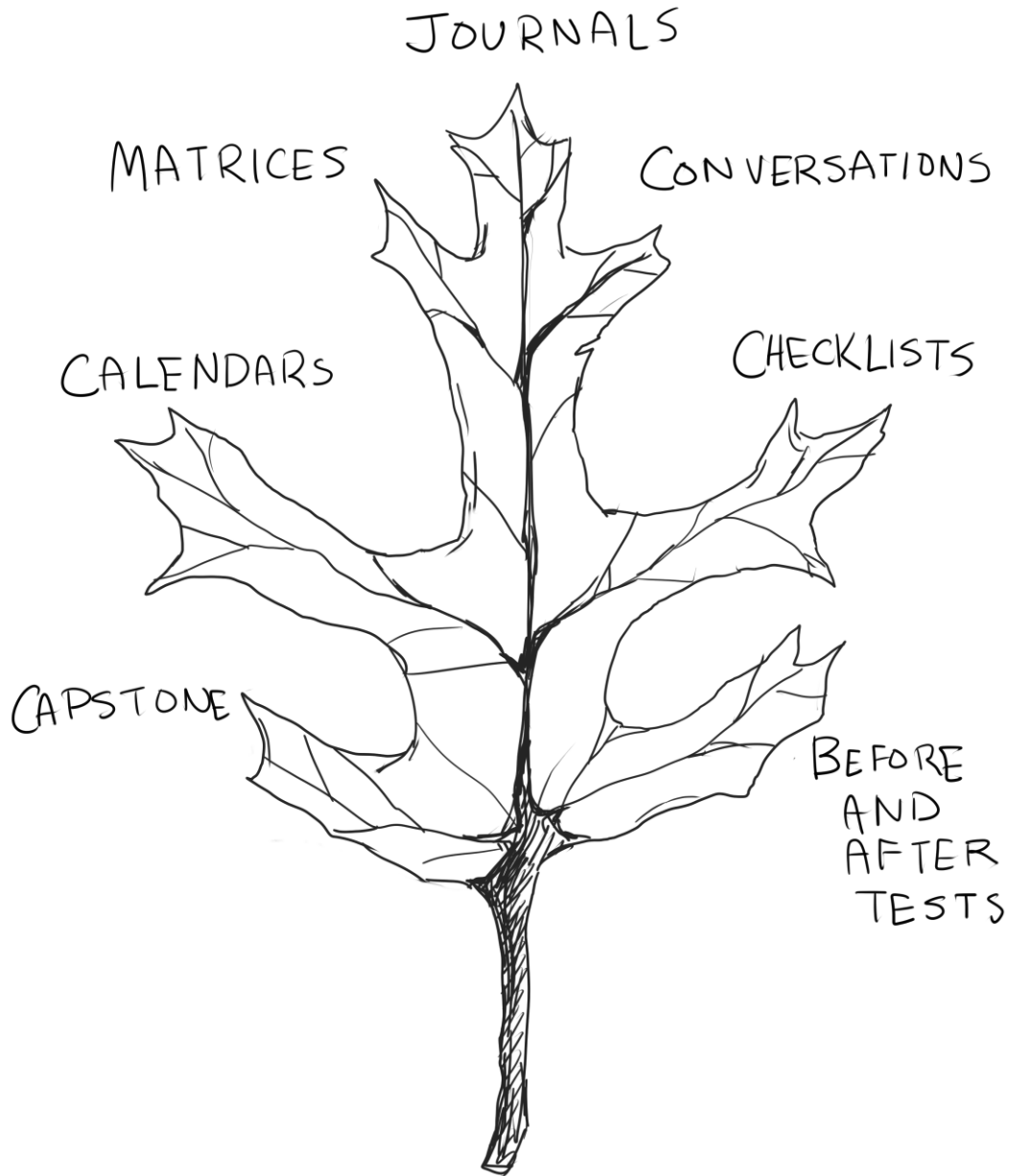
**Aquinas:** Prudence is the first of the virtues – the charioteer, the cause, measure, and form of all the virtues

**Franklin:** Temperance comes first because without self-control and balance you are slave to your emotions and physical urges.

**Proverbs 12:24:** "The hand of the diligent will rule."

**Kaizen:** daily pursuit of excellence gives meaning to life and enriches all

# Re-Imagining Education Seven Tools



**Thematic Journal:** continuity is key to depth of thought.

**Thematic Matrix:** analysis is key to clarity of thought

**Thematic Conversation:** idea exchange is key to breadth of understanding

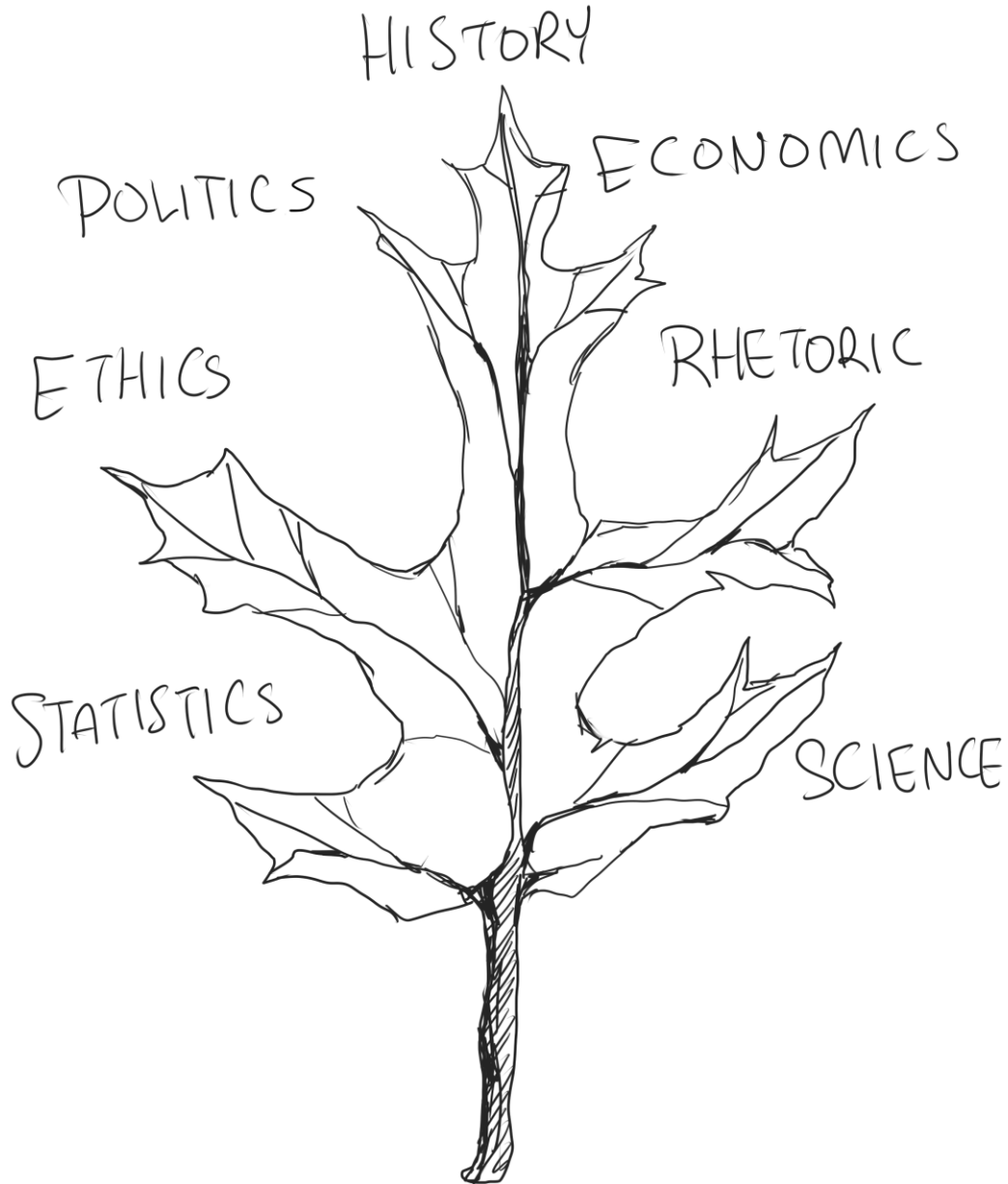
**Thematic Calendar:** to focus on important return to it with regular periodicity

**Thematic Checklists:** re-centering mnemonics key to performance under pressure

**Thematic Capstone:** to see the big picture, make balanced decisions, take the stage

**Thematic Before and After Test:**, no baseline, no accountability

# Re-Imagining Education Seven Disciplines



**History:** the lessons of the past: political, economic, cultural

**Politics:** how and why government is a necessary evil and how to structure it

**Economics:** the laws of supply and demand and comparative advantage

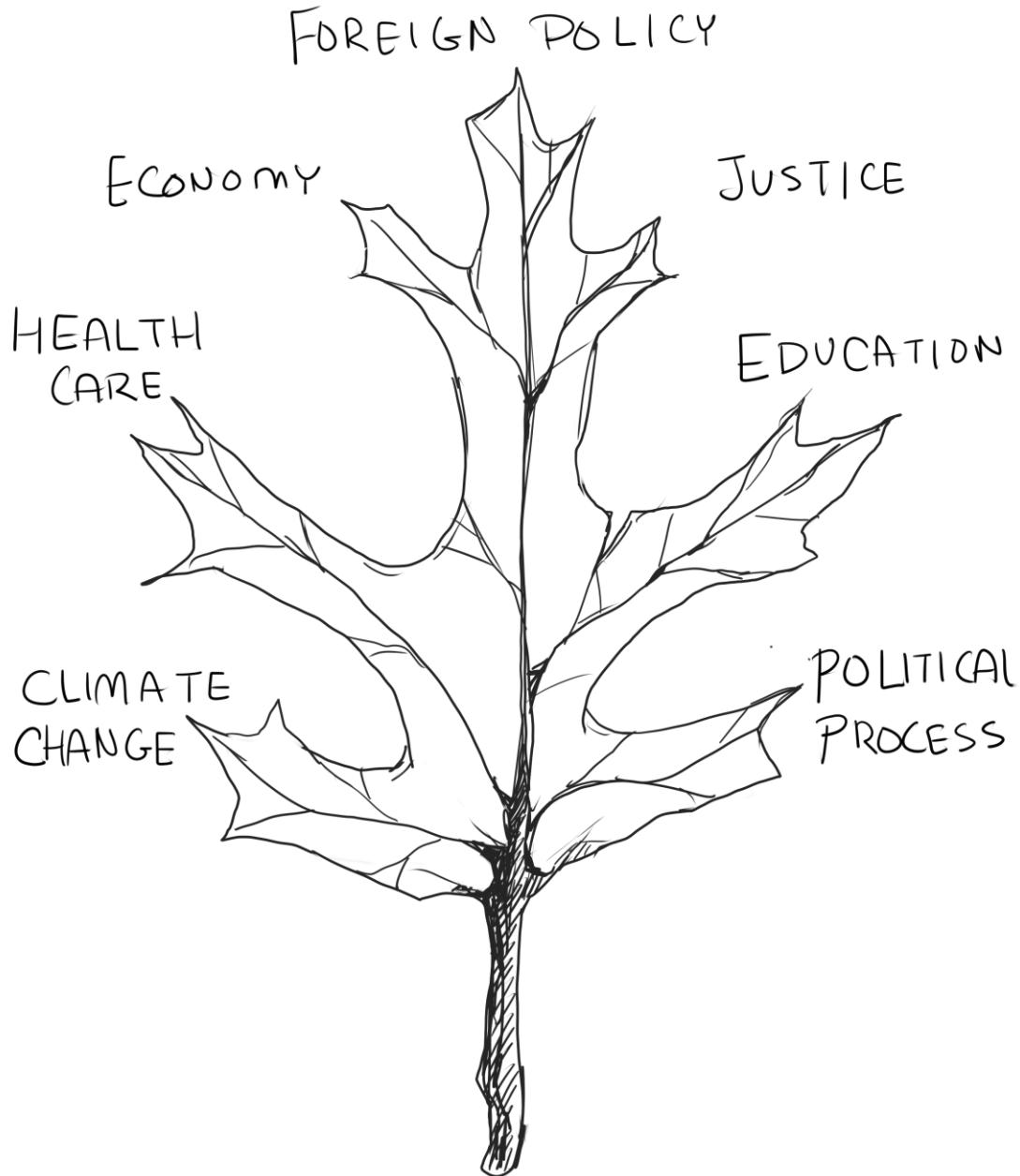
**Ethics:** the meaning of character, justice, freedom, truth, peace, welfare

**Rhetoric:** the tricks of the demagogue's trade and how to defuse them

**Statistics:** how to use and interpret statistics and not be misled by them

**Science:** distinguishing science from pseudo-science is critical

# Re-Imagining Education Seven Issues



- Foreign Policy:** Survival matters, Circles of peace expand, but threats are many
- Education:** the key to realizing our economic, democratic, and cultural potential.
- Health Care:** aging of the population means facing tough choices
- Economics:** how to maximize equality of opportunity and sustainable growth
- Climate:** finding the right mix of carbon taxes, nuclear power, alternative energy
- Justice:** how to make sure all segments of the population reach their full potential
- Political Process:** understanding the many ways the system fails its core principles