



James Watts
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James Watts (B.A., B.Ed., M.Ed., Ph.D. candidate) is an enthusiastic speaker who uses a variety of methods to convey messages of hope to his diverse audiences.

He is the parent of two young adults who thrived in the public school system (Gardenview Elementary and Laurenhill Academy), a marathoner, a veteran high school teacher, the principal of Education Plus High School in St. Laurent (Edplus.ca) and a PhD candidate at Concordia University where he is researching how adolescents learn in nature. In 2013 he won the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence and in 2016, the Roger Bider Natural History Award.

He is the founder of a private alternative school for marginalized students. His Secondary 4 and 5 students have a wide range of intellectual and behavioural deficits. For the past 28 years this has provided him with a daily dose of challenges and rewards.

Mr. Watts doesn't limit his instruction to the classroom. He has been known to bring lessons to students in the psychiatric unit of the hospital, to those in rehabilitation programs and even to the homes of students suffering from anxiety disorders.

Some of his speaking topics include,

Where the Wild Things Are: a presentation on how to get the attention of the "wild things" we call students in the "jungle" we call classrooms. He believes that every student is worth our very best and encourages his audience to become intrepid teachers.

How to Motivate a Potato: a workshop where he shares some of his innovative techniques on how to teach to the crowd and instruct the individual at the same time. Motivating the disinterested or distracted student without boring the high achieving student is just one of the challenges he addresses in this presentation.

Teaching to the Margins: a topic every teacher can relate to. Mr. Watts offers some tried and proven tips on how to reach the students at both ends of the ability and attention spectrum. When your class is made up of those who already know the material and others who are struggling with comprehension, how do you keep everyone on task?

Purveyors of Hope - Molders of Dreams: Teachers impact students' lives through words and actions. Great teachers inspire towards greatness. In this presentation, Mr. Watts motivates new and seasoned teachers alike as he demonstrates how to bring hope to those who desperately need it.

Teacher - Pyromaniac: In September, teachers wonder if they will make it to June. Students wonder if they will survive until their next break. The answer is yes! Mr. Watts shares some of the ways he is able to ignite

his students' imaginations and how he fans the flames to produce heat, light and creative energy in both students and teachers. Come prepared for fireworks!

Measuring activism – You want to protest a social justice issue but are not sure how to be effective. You want people to notice and most importantly, you want change. This one-hour, interactive presentation guides students through the pros and cons of various methods of protest. Once completed, young people will be able to plan and carry out successful protests. They will also have tools measure the effectiveness of their actions.

Past Speaking Engagements:

2005 – present	QPAT Annual Conference
2015	PROCEDE Conference – adult and vocational training educators
2016	Carlyle – parents
2017	LaurenHill Adult Center – teachers
2017	LBPBS – vocational training
2018	Westmount Park – teachers
2018	EMSB – vice principals
2019	Gardenview – grade 6 students (Internet safety)
2019	Willingdon Elementary – teachers
2019	LCEEQ Conference – medical and educational professionals
2020	James Lyng students (Measuring activism)
2021	LaurenHill Adult Center – teachers
2021	John F. Kennedy Adult Center – teachers
2023	WestHill Academy - Teachers
2023	McGill University - Graduating teachers