

Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools

By Ron Ritchhart





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Discover why and how schools must become places where thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted

As educators, parents, and citizens, we must settle for nothing less than environments that bring out the best in people, take learning to the next level, allow for great discoveries, and propel both the individual and the group forward into a lifetime of learning. This is something all teachers want and all students deserve. In *Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools*, Ron Ritchhart, author of *Making Thinking Visible*, explains how creating a culture of thinking is more important to learning than any particular curriculum and he outlines how any school or teacher can accomplish this by leveraging 8 cultural forces: expectations, language, time, modeling, opportunities, routines, interactions, and environment.

With the techniques and rich classroom vignettes throughout this book, Ritchhart shows that creating a culture of thinking is not about just adhering to a particular set of practices or a general expectation that people should be involved in thinking. A culture of thinking produces the feelings, energy, and even joy that can propel learning forward and motivate us to do what at times can be hard and challenging mental work.



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Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools By Ron Ritchhart Bibliography

• Sales Rank: #31692 in Books

• Brand: imusti

Published on: 2015-03-09Original language: English

• Number of items: 1

• Dimensions: 9.10" h x .80" w x 6.90" l, 2.91 pounds

• Binding: Paperback

• 384 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"In this insightful and important book, Ron Ritchhart does a wonderfuljob of relating the fine-scale details of what happens in classrooms tothe high-level goals of education. We see how our use of languageinfluences our students' views of what schools are for, the importance of thinking carefully about time and space, and how ultimately, nurturing our relationships with our students and our colleagues are essential elements in creating schools that nurture thinking, ratherthan compliance. Any teacher, wherever they are in their career, willlearn from this book, and be prompted to reflect on their practice."

- Dylan Wiliam, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment University College London

"This is not just a book about creating "thinking classrooms." At its core, it is a book about classrooms as a place for students and teachers to be fully human together--a place where teaching is lifting the prospects of every student, a place where learning is discovering the mind, aplace that dignifies and enlivens the concept of education. The book is a reminder that many of us havelost our way as educators. It is a guidefor resetting our compasses."

 Carol Ann Tomlinson, Ed.D., William Clay Parrish, Jr. Professor & Chalr Educational Leadership, Foundations, and Policy Curry School of Education, University of Virginia

From the Back Cover

Let's build dynamic learning communities that engage students, promote deep understanding, and sustain a lifetime of inquiry.

Once again we are in the throes of curriculum reforms designed to transform education. However, these efforts generally neglect the vital role classroom and school culture play in promoting learning. Any curriculum, good or bad, will sink or float on the culture of the classroom in which it is enacted. Culture matters not only to realize curricular goals, but also as a shaper of students' development as powerful thinkers and learners.

Creating Cultures of Thinking, written by leading Harvard University researcher Ron Ritchhart, builds the case for "enculturation" as the key to deep learning and the development of the habits of mind and dispositions needed in a changing world. He demystifies the process of creating dynamic learning communities by first identifying and then walking us through the eight forces we must marshal to build strong group culture. Case studies, practical guidelines, self-assessments, and inquiry projects enable teachers and administrators—as well as anyone interested in fostering group learning—to understand and shape powerful learning communities.

Praise for Creating Cultures of Thinking

"Ron Ritchhart makes a powerful argument that building a 'thinking culture' within our schools is the key to

better learning, greater student engagement, and more happiness all around. This book includes not only a thorough discussion of the elements of a successful school culture, but also activities to elicit contributions from students and teachers. And who knows? If the lessons in this book are put into practice, a culture of thinking might escape the classroom walls and spread to the wider world. Wouldn't that be something?"

—Daniel H. Pink, author of *Drive* and *To Sell Is Human*

"This book builds on the excellence of *Making Thinking Visible* and gets to the heart of the eight forces that truly make a difference to learning—and in particular, to the mind frames of the teachers, leaders, and students that allow a sustained, contemplative, and powerful impact on learning. . . . If your aim is to go beyond the surface, this is the perfect book. You can 'hear' Ritchhart thinking as you read this *tour de force*."

—John Hattie, director, Melbourne Education Research Institute; author of *Visible Learning*

"Books in education tend to be either presentations of a few big ideas, scholarly reviews of relevant literature, or guidebooks to effective practice. *Creating Cultures of Thinking* is a rarity—a seamless blend of all three genres. Whether you teach kindergarteners or graduate students, you will learn much from this book."

-Howard Gardner, author of Truth, Beauty, and Goodness Reframed

About the Author

RON RITCHHART is a senior research associate with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he directs the worldwide Cultures of Thinking Project. He is also a fellow at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Colon:

Here thing why this Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good but it depends in the content than it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no publication that similar with Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is probably can be happened around you. It is easy to bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your way home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools in e-book can be your option.

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Doreen Looney:

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