



# Notes on Teaching: A Short Guide to an Essential Skill

*Russell Reich, Shellee Hendricks*

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## **Notes on Teaching: A Short Guide to an Essential Skill** Russell Reich, Shellee Hendricks

These gems of advice have been practiced and passed down from generations of great teachers to help beginning teachers motivate themselves and grow into their positions. Written from the point of view of a fictional character who brings humor and sophistication to the tone, these teaching notes use simple, jargon-free language to provide explanatory commentary, helpful examples, and insights from education experts. This vital primer full of teaching wisdom works to dispel the common assumption that teachers need to be shaped into something they are not and gets to the heart of what teaching is all about: helping people learn. Notes on Teaching delivers utterly relevant guidance, lucid explanatory commentary, and helpful examples that will help anyone become a better teacher. Like its siblings in the Notes On series (Notes on Directing and Notes on Cooking), the book's clear, accessible, and practical insights into the art and craft of teaching invoke the spirit of Strunk & White's *The Elements of Style* and Sun Tsu's *The Art of War*, giving its audience the information they need in the way they want it: brief, efficient, direct. The notes are designed to provoke strong reactions--either in agreement or dissent--that will guide anyone who teaches to acknowledge, test, and debate their own beliefs. By turns provocative, funny, and unerringly blunt (#166 "Steer clear of the grumblers"), the authors understand that HOW the information is delivered is as valuable as the information itself. The book's afterword is by Taylor Mali, a teacher and one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement, famous for his poem, "What Teachers Make." Notes on Teaching is endorsed by: Wendy Kopp, Founder, Teach for America. Geoffrey Canada, President and CEO of Harlem Children's Zone. Michael Thompson, PhD., co-author of *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Lives of Boys* and *The Pressured Child*. Jack Covert, Founder and President of 800CEOREAD and co-author of *The 100 Best Business Books of All Time*. Marc Tucker, President, National Center on Education and the Economy. Leon Botstein, President, Bard College. William Durden, President, Dickinson College and Former President of Sylvan Learning Systems.

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