

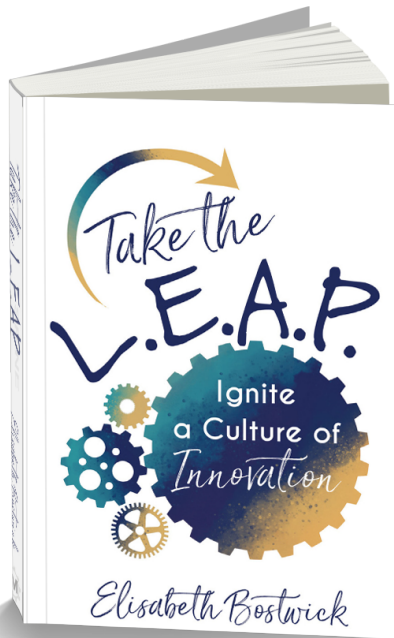


## Are You Ready to L.E.A.P.?

I am so excited that you have joined in and are ready to reimagine learning with me. Take the L.E.A.P. Ignite a Culture of Innovation is intended to inspire and support you to take steps that will grow us beyond a traditional education system. Students need to explore, inquire, and unleash creative thinking. Let's start now to plant seeds of innovation with authentic learning experiences so our students will be equipped with future ready skills.

Our schools ought to be places where students explore, inquire, and unleash creative thinking within a supportive, collaborative environment. Too often, however, they feel more like factories that demand compliance and uniformity—a reality that stifles innovation and leaves students ill-equipped for their futures. The good news is that together, we can help change that as we reimagine learning by sparking curiosity, inspiring creativity, and promoting student agency. Together we can challenge conventional thinking and create the conditions that empower meaningful learning. We can create the #LEAPeffect in our schools by using the acronym as a guiding light.







- ⚙️ Luminous Culture—Shine a light on every individual's creative potential.
- ⚙️ Empowered Learning—Encourage students to take ownership of their education.
- ⚙️ Authenticity in Learning—Tap into passions to create relevant learning experiences.
- ⚙️ Potential Soars—Ignite a movement of inspired, confident learners.



## About the Discussion Guide

This guide was developed to help organize your thoughts when making connections between your personal experiences, my stories, and your takeaways. It was intentionally developed to excite both sides of your brain from concrete, logical thoughts to unleashing creative notions as you read. Start with the focus question before you read the chapter to stimulate and frame your thinking.

## Additional Sections to Promote Thinking & Reflection

-  Brilliant Brainstorms – A place to jot down your thoughts you'd like to share.
-  Points to Ponder – Reflection questions to push your boundaries.
-  My sentence – The one thought, concept, or idea that resonated with you.
-  My word – The one word that spotlights your learning from each chapter.
-  Immediate Inspiration – Challenge yourself to immediately put something into practice.
-  I wonder – Your wonders or questions you have after reading the chapter.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

-Mark Twain

# What's Your Story?



How might our personal stories have an impact on how we potentially shape students' lives?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. What experiences have influenced you to be the educator you are today?
2. Who has been a positive force of influence on you?
3. In what ways have they impacted you and your approach to education?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder



# Take the High Ropes

2



Each day we have opportunities where we can add or degrade value in those we work alongside. How can we ensure that we foster a culture of coaching and celebration to cultivate shifts?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. In talking about risk-taking, what helps you to feel supported and what holds you back?
2. How can you inspire others to take the high ropes?
3. In thinking about Todd Rose's story on pages 24-25, how does it connect to the learners that are with you each day?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





How can we develop a sense of community in your school and classroom so that every individual feels embraced?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. How do you currently seek to develop relationships with learners and colleagues?
2. What is one specific strategy or step you will take to foster deeper and more authentic connections with individuals?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder



# Fostering a Culture of Risk-Taking

4



Which of the 8 tenets do you feel would be most powerful in fostering a culture of risk-taking in your school or classroom based on where you currently are in your journey?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. How do you currently support and encourage risk-taking in your school or classroom?
2. Which of the 8 tenets of risk-taking are we the strongest in as a school? What efforts could be made to grow in other areas?
3. How will you approach infusing this tenet regularly into your routines?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





With the 6Cs of learning being communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, and connectedness, how might we be intentional about fostering each?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. In what ways do you currently integrate the 6Cs of reimagining learning in your classroom or school?
2. With the goal being to foster a learning environment that is student-centered, where the 6Cs occur more naturally, how will you infuse the 6Cs to hack what you currently do in your classroom or school?
3. Curiosity may just be the most important ingredient in reimagining education. How can consistently infusing curiosity in our schools impact our own growth and student learning?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





How do we create learner-centered experiences?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. Reflecting on student learning, where would most of the day fall on the continuum of compliance, engagement, and empowerment?
2. In your school or classroom, when are learners deeply engaged? How do you know that they are deeply engaged?
3. What next steps will you take to empower learning or build on what you currently do?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder







Why is it critical that we create opportunities to amplify student voice and choice, fostering student agency?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. How can you enhance communication between learners to deepen thinking?
2. What authentic problems exist that are relevant to your learners?
3. How can you facilitate learning to support students in beginning to identify problems that exist?
4. What are some ways you can employ deeper reflection that lead to refined revisions?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





Our goal is to inspire students to develop a genuine joy for learning. What efforts can be made to spark intrinsic motivation to learn?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. How might helping a learner to recognize his or her interests along with strengths, be a game changer?
2. What is one lesson you currently teach that you could begin integrating the interests of learners or elements of game design?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





How might using design thinking in a maker culture support and inspire all learners?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. What topics do you teach in the curriculum that could be enhanced through maker education?
2. Within your school week or day, where could you carve out time to provide learners with opportunities to make or create based on their passions and interests?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





In what ways can we create opportunities to empower students to explore their passions, making learning more relevant?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. In what areas do learners currently have choice in learning?
2. Thinking of your current schedule and how you structure learning, how can you infuse students' passions to a greater extent?
3. Within your school week or day, where could you carve out time to provide learners with opportunities to explore their passions?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder



# The Power of Project-Based Learning



Why is it important to create authentic learning experiences?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. How could you incorporate various elements of project-based learning in your daily practice?
2. Consider a unit within the curriculum that you teach. In what ways could you reshape it to include the elements of project-based learning?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





How can we collectively develop opportunities for students to share their learning or present to an authentic audience?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. Why is it important to empower learners as leaders?
2. How could you integrate the concept of exploration camps in your classroom or school?
3. Which organization or business in your community could enhance an area of your curriculum to bring relevance to learning and serve as a community partner?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





In what ways can we encourage an open culture where individuals honor their impact and strengths/talents are leveraged?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. What factors have seemed to hinder our efforts to grow beyond our boundaries? How might we take steps to innovate despite the obstacles that are present?
2. What opportunities could be provided to encourage the continued improvement of current strengths and talents while nurturing learning in our areas of growth?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder



# Initiate the L.E.A.P.

14



How will we join hands and take the L.E.A.P., unleashing the next generation of innovators?



Brilliant Brainstorms



Points to Ponder

1. You are the authors of the future chapters within your story. Five years from now, what story will be told about your journey to take the L.E.A.P.?
2. Describe how you will you take bold steps to take the L.E.A.P. and create a culture that inspires innovation.
3. If you were to select one quote to post and serve as daily inspiration in your quest to create a culture of innovation, what would it be?



My sentence



My word



Immediate Inspiration



I wonder





**TAKE THE L.E.A.P.**  
**IGNITE A CULTURE**  
**OF INNOVATION**  
 by Elisabeth Bostwick  
 @ElisabethBostwick  
 #LEAPeffect



Future Jobs:



Most schools:



Creativity Squasher Elementary

More creativity!

EMPOWER STUDENTS, not LEARNING

How can you innovate within the box?

**LUMINOUS CULTURE**

...a culture of Trust

- Be vulnerable
- Shared experiences
- Validate feelings

Love is important, but **PURPOSE** is what makes you keep going.

Choose to move forward even when others are pulling you down.

GOAL

CHILDREN ARE **Makers** BY NATURE.



\*A maker space does not have to be fancy

DESIGN helps them identify a **PURPOSE** for what they are making.



If you have ideas for empowering students, share them with your admins.

HELP STUDENTS IDENTIFY WHAT TRULY MATTERS TO THEM.

PROBLEMS: Local, Global, Universal

IDENTIFY PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD

Show them school is relevant to their lives!

ALLOW students (and yourself) time to **PONDER...**

**AUTHENTICITY IN LEARNING**

**PBL** PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (not to be confused with "project")

alone first; then share with group

**Brainstorm**

Where is your FOCUS?

REFLECTION

DON'T FORGET TO CARVE OUT TIME FOR

Share your "Why" to help others buy in

the key to opening the door of infinite possibilities

The **6 Cs**:

Curiosity  
 Creativity  
 Communication  
 Critical Thinking  
 Collaboration  
 Community

ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF

Yes! Can we...?

(may require giving up some control)

Teacher to COACH

**EMPOWERED LEARNING**

Experiences that make students want to learn!

embrace the strengths of your COWORKERS... and build on them.

**FLOW** perfect balance of challenge and ability

Spark **JOY** in learning - infuse some pop culture trends

REVERSE INNOVATION

Reimagine products for a non-Western society @, @, @, @

5 EFFECTIVE METHODS:

- Productive struggle
- Tech as a TOOL
- Choice-infused learning
- Personal goal setting
- Reflection

PROBLEM-FINDERS

Instead of cranking out factory workers, schools need to develop skilled

**POTENTIAL SOARS**

Hey! My peeps!

Never underestimate WHAT YOUR STUDENTS ARE CAPABLE OF!

Ask kids: instead of:

What impact do you want to have?

What do you want to be when you grow up?

@JuliePorterEC