

Teaching, Thinking, Learning: The ThoughtFULL Classroom

By Bert Hagemann and Nancy Johnson-Farris

Teaching, Thinking, and Learning is divided into three sections that focus on teacher, environment and classroom. A little gimmicky, the main ideas from each section are organized around the spokes in a wheel, a uniform eight spokes to each wheel. While some of the spokes are a bit of a stretch, some emphasize the most basic elements that make a teacher's and the classroom environment most effective. Some of these include: modeling, listening, reflection, safety, celebration, dignity and risk-taking.

The first two sections, focusing on teacher and environment, are certainly stronger than the third section. The third section focuses on the classroom and rehashes the basic principles of Bloom's Taxonomy. It is a rudimentary overview with some simple activities that reflect Bloom's. These activities are very basic and the spokes in this section include: decision making, problem solving, logical thinking, creative thinking, critical thinking, visual thinking and future thinking.

The book lists the audience as teachers, administration, students and parents. In general, filled with inspirational quotes, poems, and checklist after checklist, this book seems best suited to teachers in training and new teachers. It lacks the depth it might need to provide guidance for more experienced teachers, but, in its favor, its message can apply to classrooms across content areas and grade levels.

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