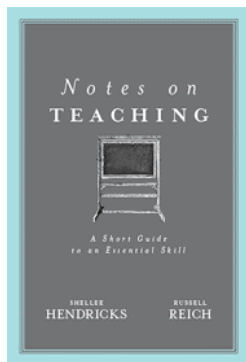


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***Get schooled by the third book
in the acclaimed Notes On Series***

NOTES ON TEACHING: A SHORT GUIDE TO AN ESSENTIAL SKILL

***Rise above the noise, cut through the nonsense, and
get to the heart of what teaching others is all about***

New York, NY – On her first day of tenth grade, Shellee Hendricks’ teacher shook her hand. The simple act – never experienced from a teacher before – disarmed her, drew her in, and inspired her with its openness and respect for her as a student. Now a teacher herself, Hendricks always remembers the wisdom in that gesture and made “Shake hands” (#20) one of 184 notes she and co-author Russell Reich offer in their vital new primer, *Notes on Teaching: A Short Guide to an Essential Skill* (July 2011; RCR Creative Press).

In just 140 pages, *Notes on Teaching* delivers utterly relevant guidance, lucid explanatory commentary, and helpful examples and insights 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 book’s 184 notes and concise explanations filter out the noise and cut through the nonsense to address a wide range of topics from lesson planning and preparation to first class meetings, essential questions, stumbling blocks, and giving feedback.

Notes on Teaching is organized into 16 chapters that cover the basic components of every teacher’s year. Throughout each chapter, Hendricks and Reich are assertive and encouraging – and blessedly buzzword and jargon-free – in their approach to topics like The Teachers Role (#3 “You don’t need all the answers”), Leading a Class (#87 “Loosen the reigns”), Teaching with Questions (#99 “Resist the temptation to end the silence”), and Talking to Students (#117 “Don’t try to speak their language”) and Parents (#129 “Ask first, tell second”).

In spite of this straightforward approach, *Notes on Teaching* is *not* filled with the same old teacherly, correct-but-bloodless advice that afflicts many pedagogical books. 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. This approach and more has won the book endorsements from Wendy Kopp of Teach for America, Geoffrey Canada of Harlem Children’s Zone and the film “Waiting for Superman,” and Leon Botstein, President of Bard College.

“We wanted *Notes on Teaching* to be a foundation – a beginning, not an end – for teachers,” says Hendricks. “We want them to grow from their responses – to react to and define themselves against our notes and build on them.” (A companion website at www.notesonteaching.com will capture, categorize, and rank best teaching practices from teachers around the world.)

We are all, at some point in our lives, teachers. As parents, coaches, managers, friends...we often must *think* like teachers to motivate others and help them grow. And good teachers know they must continually strive to master their craft – it’s always possible to be better. The straightforward wisdom of *Notes on Teaching* works across disciplines, ages, and abilities and even crosses international boundaries: Hendricks learned that students in India, Brazil, and China all appreciate the chance to think through an opinion (#72 “Let them think”) or having their virtues noticed (#114 “Notice what they want you to notice”). Moreover, the commentary, insights from education experts, and helpful examples as well as life lessons – about how to deal with people, anticipate problems, or handle challenging situations – will make *Notes on Teaching* as valuable outside the classroom as in.

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Notes on Teaching is the third title in RCR Creative Press’s Notes On Series. The first, *Notes on Directing* (<http://www.notesondirecting.com>), was a triple award-winning book endorsed by Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, Edward Albee, and Sir Tom Stoppard, among others. The second, *Notes on Cooking* (<http://www.notesoncooking.com>) was to the kitchen what Strunk and White’s *The Elements of Style* was to composition and grammar, and was endorsed by Daniel Boulud, Jacques Pepin, Lidia Bastianich, and Dan Barber, among others.

BIOS

SHELLEE HENDRICKS has taught in classrooms in the United States and around the world, including in London, Beijing, and Rio de Janeiro. She has earned degrees from Brown and McGill Universities as well as a summer institute fellowship for leaders in education through Columbia University’s Klingenstein Center. She currently teaches English Literature at the Benjamin Franklin International School in Barcelona, Spain.

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