



# The Exceptional Teacher: Transforming Traditional Teaching Through Thoughtful Practice

Elizabeth Aaronsohn

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## DESCRIPTION

In *The Exceptional Teacher*, veteran K-12 teacher Elizabeth Aaronsohn examines three important questions: What do our teachers really want our children to get out of school? How do their own schooling experiences inhibit them from achieving these goals? How can a teacher education program give beginning teachers a framework for thinking differently about the whole process of teaching?

*The Exceptional Teacher* offers the guidance that teacher educators need to help their students become teachers who are knowledgeable and skillful practitioners, while also developing the ability to be reflective, imaginative, courageous, and flexible in the classroom— a model for the students they are instructing. In this inspiring book, Aaronsohn shows that becoming an exceptional teacher can be a difficult but rewarding journey. She explains that success begins in understanding one's self and societal and cultural experiences. Based on qualitative research from student writings and workshops, the author offers practical advice to help beginning teachers move beyond their own internalized assumptions, and become educators who will transform their classrooms.

Aaronsohn encourages teachers to develop the practice of honest reflection on their attitudes, thinking, and practices, and especially to develop the capacity to assume the perspective of another person. These practices can be nurtured through the process of in-depth writing, which helps to make meaning of experiences and brings teachers to a new level of consciousnesses about themselves, the world, and the mission of teaching.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Aaronsohn is an associate professor of teacher education at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut. She has taught eight years each at three levels: high school English; college English, speech, and women's studies; and early elementary school. She is the author of *Going Against the Grain: Supporting the Student-Centered Teacher*.

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## FEATURES

- Takes a unique look at the importance of pre-service teachers' own experiences as students.
  - An antidote to entrenched and technocratic approaches to teacher education.
  - Offers accessible and practical advice combining research results and compelling personal narrative.
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