

**Wouldn't you agree that there is a REAL NEED for PRACTICAL information for teachers?** The educators that I talk to and communicate with via email seem hungry for more than what's traditionally offered in teacher resource books--they're looking for strategies that work with English Language Learners, special needs students, kids in the inner city, and children from backgrounds that are far beyond the scope of anything described in education course textbooks. I continually meet teachers who are drowning in paperwork and overwhelmed by student behaviors, but don't have a sufficient support system within their school district. These teachers spend their 'spare time' scouring for resources on the Internet and in bookstores, hoping for solutions from someone who can relate to their struggles and offer guidance. And unfortunately, most of the resources they find focus on WHAT to do and not HOW to do it.

If you're like most teachers, you've come to this website because you're looking for detailed and realistic suggestions for organizing and managing your classroom. You have an idea of how you want your day to flow, but you're not sure how to communicate your expectations to students, or how to reinforce the guidelines you've set up. You know that you want kids to line up quietly and pay attention while you're teaching, but you sometimes resort to nagging, yelling, or bribing them to cooperate because you're not sure what your other options are. Similarly, you know you want your classroom to be organized and neat. But, you're exhausted by the mere idea of sorting through all those papers and resources, and you're worried that even if you had everything in place, it wouldn't stay that way because the children haven't learned to take responsibility for keeping the room neat.

The good news is that these dilemmas are NORMAL for teachers, and they CAN be remedied much faster than you probably think. In fact, your struggles with classroom management HAVE to be addressed so that teaching and learning can take place. Management has always been my focus on this website, not only because it's the foundation (or cornerstone) of everything that happens in the classroom, but because quality resources are so scarce. I was desperate for information when I was a new teacher and struggling to maintain control when a thousand things were happening simultaneously throughout the school day. Like most new teachers, I needed a practical guide to show me how find a teaching style that was supportive and engaging for the kids and a good fit for my personality. I needed a resource that would show me how to determine and communicate what I wanted to happen, and teach my students to meet my expectations with automaticity.

***That's what this website and book are all about:***

***how to construct a self-running classroom that frees you to teach.***

You can easily regain and maintain control of your classroom once you understand the keys to strong classroom management. Once you've developed the right (positive) mindset and created a realistic vision for your classroom, you can teach for it. *The Cornerstone* uses actual classroom photographs, forms, and dialogue examples to show you how to create procedures and routines that facilitate learning. It will guide you through every step of reinforcing your expectations.

*The Cornerstone* is an expansion of the ideas presented on my website, and provides a tangible, more comprehensive resource for teachers to keep and reference in the classroom. In *The Cornerstone*, you'll learn how a positive teaching philosophy plays out practically in the classroom to create a calm, supportive environment that balances predictable routines with unpredictable teaching strategies and lessons. It is a comprehensive guide to making this school year the very best possible, whether it's your first or your thirty-first. This book will guide you to reflect on why you teach, what type of students you want to produce, and ways to run your classroom that fit well with your personal teaching style...all within the context of planning for specific procedures and routines. From the first minute you spend with your students in August to the final hectic week in June, *The Cornerstone* will show you how to stay focused on what's really important, maintain your enthusiasm, and utilize all the resources you have available.

*The Cornerstone* is formatted to:

- \*include classroom forms and sample versions of reproducibles*
- \*provide space in the margin for notes*
- \*separate detailed information into small, easy-to-digest sections so you can easily skim over or skip to the parts you need most*
- \*utilize nearly 200 photographs to illustrate organizational tips, room arrangement ideas, and instructional resources*
- \*correlate with the new website, which will provide further resources and regularly updated supplements*

Orders are currently available on my website. Because there are approximately 3 million book titles currently in print, the average bookstore can physically stock less than 1% of titles in-store. That means you may not see *The Cornerstone* in all markets. Your local retailer is more likely to stock the book if customers request it, so of course, I encourage you to do so! However, all major retailers (e.g., Amazon, Borders Books, Barnes and Noble) sell *The Cornerstone* on their websites.

Hundreds of site visitors have emailed to express gratitude for the free website resources and excitement about being able to give something back by supporting the book. If you share this viewpoint, I'd like to suggest that you purchase the book directly from my website or by clicking on Amazon.com from my homepage. These two methods of purchase divert a greater percentage of the profit to me, at no additional cost to you. Please note that authors do not receive royalties from the sale of used books, so anytime your intention is to support an author, be sure to purchase a new copy of his or her book.

A million thanks to the site visitors who have sent me encouragement, suggestions, ideas, contributions, referrals, positive thoughts, and especially prayers over the past five years. I feel so blessed to have you as part of the online support network that's been offered at mspowell.com. Neither the book nor the website would be possible without the enthusiastic word-of-mouth that you all have generated not only across the United States, but reaching six continents.

This has been an amazing journey, and it's still only the beginning! As long as there are teachers who feel burdened by management concerns and need the freedom to teach, I still have work to do. There are many other ideas that I want to pursue now, from presenting *The Cornerstone* workshops to individual schools and districts, to creating a children's version of *The Cornerstone* that can be used to facilitate class discussions and serve as a visual aid when teaching procedural and behavioral expectations (such as following along and working together). I'm excited about what's coming, and as always, I will keep you updated every step of the way through my website, blog, and Yahoo Group.

So, enjoy the new website and book! I hope that you will find practical suggestions that leave you feeling inspired, rejuvenated, and full of confidence that you can handle every task that's set before you. My aspiration is to make your teaching life as effective, efficient, and ENJOYABLE as possible!

Angela Powell  
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