



The Art of Coaching Teams: Building Resilient Communities that Transform Schools

Elena Aguilar

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The missing how-to manual for being an effective team leader

The Art of Coaching Teams is the manual you never received when you signed on to lead a team. Being a great teacher is one thing, but leading a team, or team development, is an entirely different dynamic. Your successes are public, but so are your failures—and there's no specific rubric or curriculum to give you direction. Team development is an art form, and this book is your how-to guide to doing it effectively. You'll learn the administrative tasks that keep your team on track, and you'll gain access to a wealth of downloadable tools that simplify the "getting organized" process. Just as importantly, you'll explore what it means to be the kind of leader that can bring people together to accomplish difficult tasks. You'll find practical suggestions, tools, and clear instructions for the logistics of team development as well as for building trust, developing healthy communication, and managing conflict.

Inside these pages you'll find concrete guidance on:

Designing agendas, making decisions, establishing effective protocols, and more
Boosting your resilience, understanding and managing your emotions, and meeting your goals
Cultivating your team's emotional intelligence and dealing with cynicism
Utilizing practical tools to create a customized framework for developing highly effective teams

There is no universal formula for building a great team, because every team is different. Different skills, abilities, personalities, and goals make a one-size-fits-all approach ineffective at best. Instead, *The Art of Coaching Teams* provides a practical framework to help you develop your group as a whole, and keep the team moving toward their common goals.

The Art of Coaching Teams: Building Resilient Communities that Transform Schools Details

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Laurie Brown says

Solid book. There are plenty of resources and examples. It covers all things that one needs to lead a team. This was extremely useful to me. This will be a book I will pull off the bookshelf frequently.

Evin says

While strong narration and interesting anecdotes throughout the story kept me reading, there simply was too much fat and not enough meat to digest in order to make the book worth reading for my particular department. As a peer (and not an outside coach), Aguilar does not address the other dynamics that may be at play. My hope is that there would be WAY more protocols and ideas and less stories about the difficult/challenging team. Give me something to immediately use!

Mike says

This book was so good. So, so good. If you are in charge of a team, or *want* to be in charge of a team, or think you *will* be in charge of a team, this is the book for you. Just order it. I received this book as part of an endorsement program I'm in. I will be re-reading it over the summer. So many great resources (and the website is on point too).

I deducted one star because, as much as I liked this book, it's just *full* of typos, to the point where I found it distracting. Here's hoping they sort that out in a future edition.

But don't let that stop you. You and your school need this.
P.S.: Going to be reading all her other books soon.

Sarah Wechsler says

Elena Aguilar is one of my educational crushes. She nails it again with this book with the perfect balance of mindset and practical approaches to lead teams. She understands humans and interpersonal dynamics that occur during and within a team! This was a great read to prepare me for. Y new role!

Kat says

The best professional book I have ever read. It's hard to find work books that are truly told through a culturally competent lens and Elena has nailed it with this one.

Rachel says

Everyone who leads a team, no matter where, should read this book.

Marjie says

A great book for anyone who is in a leadership position -- in the field of education or not!

Elissa Miller says

3-4 stars - there's a fair bit I can take away from this, however a lot of the communication suggestions would be completely shut down in most contexts in this country (Australia), so some of this is context-specific. It was great for slowing me down and getting me to think about the various components of teamwork, team building and the need to monitor communication within team settings. I'll just have to find other strategies to use on top of those provided in this book.

Kris Patrick says

Congratulations to me! I am now a Technology Integration Coach with Noblesville Schools.

Skylar Primm says

Overall, this was an excellent follow-up to *The Art of Coaching*. I only wish I'd finished it more quickly! I will certainly be returning to the book in the months and years to come. Her lists and appendices are sure to see a lot of action.

Aguilar summarizes the book thus: *"The unnamed, overarching truth on which this book rests is this: We need to build teams."* (p. 294) There was a time when I thought I could and should do it all, but the older and more experienced I get, the more convinced I am that she is 100% correct. We need each other to make worthwhile changes at school, in the community, or around the globe. This book provides a framework for starting to make those changes happen.

Jeanie Phillips says

This book has been my bible this fall! Elena Aguilar's approach to coaching has everything I need: practical examples, opportunities for deep reflection, a focus on equity, and so much more.

Hannah says

WHY DOES EVERYTHING ELENA AGUILAR TOUCHES TURN TO GOLD??? Must-read for anyone who's part of or leading a team of any kind. Ordered copies for my entire team to read!

Bethany Heath says

The Good: There is a lot of practical advice here you can put in motion right away. Agulair is knowledgeable and experienced. She understands what it's like to work with teachers and her ideas are both exceptional and practical.

The Bad: Her writing lacks empathy for the struggles teachers and coaches face. She comes across as "no excuses" which I find off-putting in the public education setting. So often there are hurdles that deserve acknowledgement.

Overall, I enjoyed her work and I would consider it to be in my top 5 education-related reads.

Andy Mitchell says

I appreciate Elena Aguilar's honesty about her struggles starting out as a team leader.

She balances reality with a clear vision of what leadership can become when supported by your organization.

And she acknowledges that with the wrong sort of leadership, this work can become impossible.

Emily says

This had so many great strategies for working with a team, leading a team, and simply working well with others. Elena has a lot of examples, which helps the reader see what her ideas look like in action.
