



Why Didn't I Learn This in College? Second Edition

By Paula Rutherford

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Over 300,000 copies of the first edition are in the hands of new teachers and their mentors worldwide. This new edition includes updated tools and procedures for teaching and learning in the 21st century. Even veteran teachers say that they find the ideas and strategies here invaluable. It is based on the construct that the best management program is a good instructional program. If student learning is our goal, we want to shift our focus from control and compliance to creating positive learning-centered environments.

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Editorial Review

Review

In Georgia we have TAPP (Teacher Alternative Preparation Program). As new teachers are hired, the experienced teachers try to do everything we can to mentor them and help them adjust to their new environment. I have found NO RESOURCE better than the book *Why Didn't I Learn This in College?* to aid in the task of preparing the TAPP teachers for the classroom. Mainly because, these teachers didn't learn about teaching in college or anywhere else prior to their first year. *Why Didn't I Learn This in College?* is full of so much ESSENTIAL information! EVERY new teacher should be given this book to read before their first day on the job! It is more than just what to do in the classroom. It is also full of information about how to interact on a team, in a conference, with the students, with the parents, even some professional wisdom that is specific to a career in education. This book is a MUST HAVE for ALL beginning teachers - especially someone from an alternative teacher preparation program like TAPP. Even though I did major in education in college, I wish I would have been privy to the wisdom and insight found in this book during my first year of teaching. I recommend it to anyone who is beginning a career in education or trying to improve their skills within the first few years of their career as a teacher. --Carly Stanley, 6th Grade Science Teacher, Warner Robins, GA

Paula Rutherford is truly a guiding light in the field of education for the 21st century. She has remarkably woven instructional strategies, motivation techniques (teacher & student), assessment strategies, planning strategies, etc. into a wonderful easily to read book that is essential for new teachers and a great skill reminder for all other teachers. *Why Didn't I Learn This in College?* is designed as a resource that will help any teacher understand how to effectively implement various educational concepts that is needed in every classroom! Furthermore, this book gives any teacher the essential foundation needed to become an exemplary teacher. It is easy to read, illustrated with various techniques and examples, offers proven strategies and activities that will give any teacher new or veteran a clear vision for success in any classroom. This book shows Paula's gift of educating the minds of all students through different strategies that all teachers can and should be implementing! --Tracy Brown, Orangeburg, SC

These testimonials about *Why Didn't I Learn This in College?* echo the sentiments of our new teachers and the administrative team in Greece Central School District about the practicality and usefulness of this resource. We have provided all of our new teachers with this book for two years now and utilize the strategies and tips during our three year new teacher induction program. Many of our veteran teachers have purchased a copy for personal use and as gifts for teacher colleagues or family members in education. *Why Didn't I Learn This in College?* is aligned with the expectations for teaching in a standards-based classroom and helps us when conferencing with new and experienced teaching staff as we work together to help all students be successful. --Ann Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent, Greece Central School District, Greece, NY

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strategies and activities that will give any teacher new or veteran a clear vision for success in any classroom. This book shows Paula's gift of educating the minds of all students through different strategies that all teachers can and should be implementing! --Tracy Brown, Orangeburg, SC

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About the Author

Paula Rutherford is the author of multiple books including: Active Learning and Engagement Strategies, Instruction for All Students, Creating a Culture for Learning, Leading the Learning: A Field Guide for Supervision and Evaluation, Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners, Why Didn't I Learn This in College? and The 21st Century Mentor's Handbook. Paula is president of Just ASK Publications & Professional Development, established in 1989 and based in Alexandria, Virginia. She works extensively with districts as they engage in long-term systemic work to align processes such as hiring, induction, professional development, school improvement plans, and supervision and evaluation. She also leads Mentoring in the 21st Century® Institutes across the country and has developed a comprehensive Mentoring in the 21st Century® Resource Kit so that districts can replicate the Just ASK institutes and provide extensive follow-up support for mentors. Paula, committed to building in-house capacity, has also developed a New Teacher Professional Development Kit that provides over 30 hours of support for new teachers. In addition to her extensive work as a consultant and trainer, Paula's professional experience includes work in regular education K-12 as a teacher of high school history and social sciences, physical education, Spanish, and kindergarten, as well as a special education teacher, coordinator of special education programs, administrator at the middle school and high school levels, and as a central office staff development specialist.

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