JENNIFER GONZALEZ

"TO STAND BEFORE CHILDREN IS A RARE PRIVILEGE. IN EVERY MINUTE WE SPEND TOGETHER, THEY WILL LEARN SOMETHING. LET'S MAKE IT GOOD."

National Board Certified Teacher, author, and Editor-in-Chief at Cult of Pedagogy, Jennifer Gonzalez blends her broad pedagogical and technical knowledge, down-to-earth honesty, and sense of humor to deliver inspiring keynotes and practical lectures and workshops.
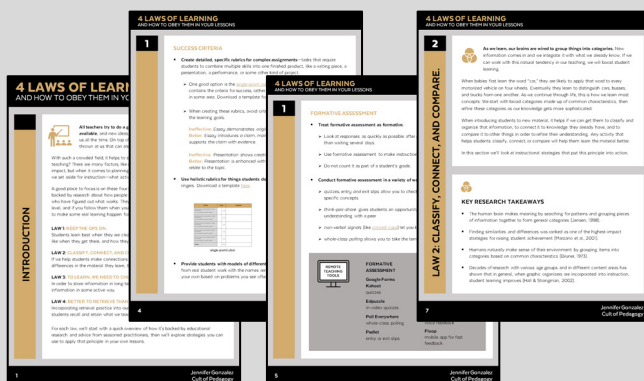
In her everyday work, Jennifer digs into the topics most teachers don't have enough time to study deeply on their own: teaching methodology, classroom management, learning theory, and educational technology. Then she extracts the most valuable information from it all and shares it with teachers so they can run with it.

Because every event is different, Jennifer will customize a package of services for your unique needs, including resources your group can continue to use long after the event has come and gone. **All offerings can be presented remotely via videoconferencing software**.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

All of the topics on the following pages can be offered in different formats, depending on your needs.

- **Keynote**: This is a simple presentation with no audience interaction. Additional time can be added at the end for audience Q&A.

- **Workshop**: The topic is presented with more interactivity, where intentional stopping points are built in to give the audience time to work in small groups on various discussion topics related to the presentation.

All presentations come with a digital download summarizing the session's key points and providing links to more resources online.

GOING FOR FLOW: WHY WE NEED DEEP WORK, AND HOW WE CAN GET MORE OF IT

NEW *Keynote*: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90 min

Teaching well requires so much mental energy. But the culture of most schools has put us in a constant state of distraction. As we build years of experience, we accumulate expertise in our fields, but we rarely have the time to shape it into any kind of sustainable contribution; we're just too busy simply getting through each day.

Meanwhile, our students are having a similar experience: overwhelmed and constantly distracted, the world is spinning around them at breakneck speed, and for a lot of our students, this is creating anxiety, depression, and an inability to focus.

One solution to this is to reshape our school culture to prioritize *flow,* a state in which one gets so involved in an activity that time almost disappears, and *deep work,* uninterrupted time to concentrate and focus on cognitively demanding tasks. In this session, we'll consider why flow and deep work are so important, explore strategies for making more time for both in our schools, and do some dreaming about what this shift could look like for ourselves and our students.

THE SYMBIOTIC CURRICULUM: WHERE "REAL LIFE" AND SCHOOL ARE THE SAME

Keynote: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90 min

For generations, many of our schools have operated apart from the communities that surround us. We prepare students for the "real world" without giving them real access to it. We seek expertise from textbooks and websites, missing the wealth of resources right down the street. We experience the consequences of community problems, but rarely see ourselves as the ones who can solve them.

Now the world has changed: School has been brought home, improvisation and change are a daily occurrence, and communities have had to think critically about the value of education and how best to make it happen. Now more than ever, we have an opportunity to break with tradition and create a symbiotic relationship between school and community: tapping into local resources, solving local problems, and becoming truly active citizens of our communities. By hearing the stories of teachers and students who have done just that, we'll be able to imagine the possibilities for all schools.

TOPICS

THE AERODYNAMICS OF EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS

Keynote: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90 min

In any school, just as in air travel, four forces work to affect our progress: *lift,* the tools we select to meet student needs; *thrust,* the energy and enthusiasm we put into improving our practice; *weight,* the raw materials we have to work with—socioeconomics, budget constraints, student readiness; and *drag,* the resistance to change from colleagues, students, and parents.

When we try to improve lift through new initiatives, our excitement can be dampened when we meet the forces of *weight* and *drag* that await us in our schools.
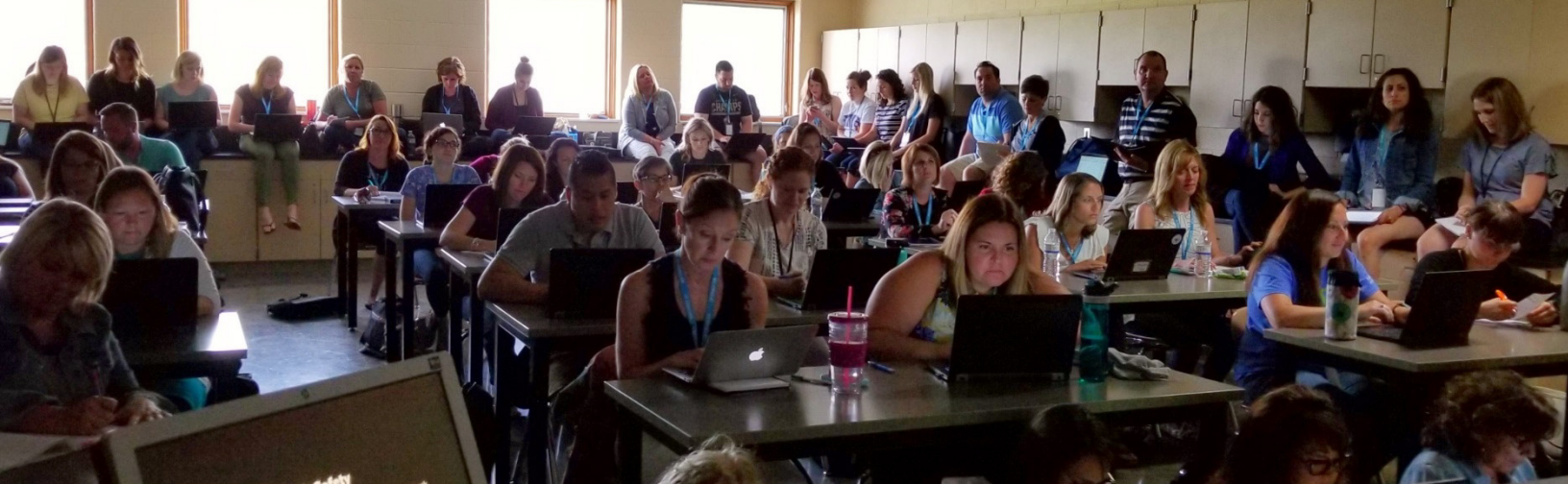
What's missing is *thrust.* We know what it's going to take to improve our schools, but we have to get better at convincing other stakeholders to get on board. Lessons from change management theory and advice from teachers who have been there will give us the tools we need to encourage our colleagues, get buy-in from students and parents, and make our schools truly exceptional.

4 LAWS OF LEARNING (AND HOW TO OBEY THEM IN YOUR LESSONS)

Keynote: 60-90 min | *Workshop:* 120 min

What really makes a difference in teaching? There are many factors, like relationship building, that have a powerful impact, but when it comes to planning lessons—that 45- to 90-minute block of time we set aside for instruction—what activities actually move the needle on learning?

This session explores four rock-solid truths backed by research on how people learn. These laws apply to every subject area and grade level, and if you follow them when planning lessons, you'll be a lot more likely to make some real learning happen for students.

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TOPICS

DESIGNING QUALITY CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

NEW *Keynote*: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90-120 min

What does it take to conduct a good classroom discussion? Why do we have discussions at all? In this session, we will explore the benefits of classroom discussions and actionable tips for planning discussions that work well. Finally, we will look at a collection of discussion formats that get everyone talking.

In the keynote version, the discussion formats will simply be presented to attendees. In the workshop version, attendees will participate in short discussions using each of the formats.

CULTIVATING A HEALTHY CLASSROOM CLIMATE

Keynote: 60-75 min | *Workshop:* 90-120 min

The emotional climate of a classroom significantly impacts students' academic achievement. If you struggle with classroom management, unmotivated students, or lessons that just don't go well, the problem might have something to do with climate. This session examines five factors that affect classroom climate — teacher mindset, relationship building, academic safety, inclusiveness, and classroom design — and offers specific ways you can make improvements in each area.

TOPICS

START AT THE END: APPLYING BACKWARD DESIGN TO CLASSROOM TECH

Keynote: 60-75 min | *Workshop:* 90-120 min

How do we avoid getting distracted by the "shiny objects" of tech and stay focused on learning? One way is with backward design. Using examples from different content areas, we'll look at how teachers can first clarify what students should know or be able to do by the end of a learning cycle, then choose the experiences and technology that will get them there.

SUPPORTING STUDENT READERS AND WRITERS IN EVERY CLASS

Keynote: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90 min

Teachers in all subjects are expected to support student reading and writing. In this session, we will explore why students need literacy in every class, the misconceptions that keep teachers in non-ELA content areas from effectively giving literacy support, and the surprisingly simple strategies teachers can use to support student reading and writing in any content area.

TECH AND THE BRAIN: MATCHING TOOLS WITH THE RESEARCH ON LEARNING

Keynote: 45-60 min | *Workshop:* 90 min

The research on how we learn best is coming in all the time: We are discovering more powerful ways to help students process information at higher levels, anchor concepts in long-term memory, and transfer ideas to other contexts. Now it's time to leverage technology to make these practices even more effective. In this session, we'll look at a collection of research-based learning principles and how each one can be boosted by pairing them with specific tools.