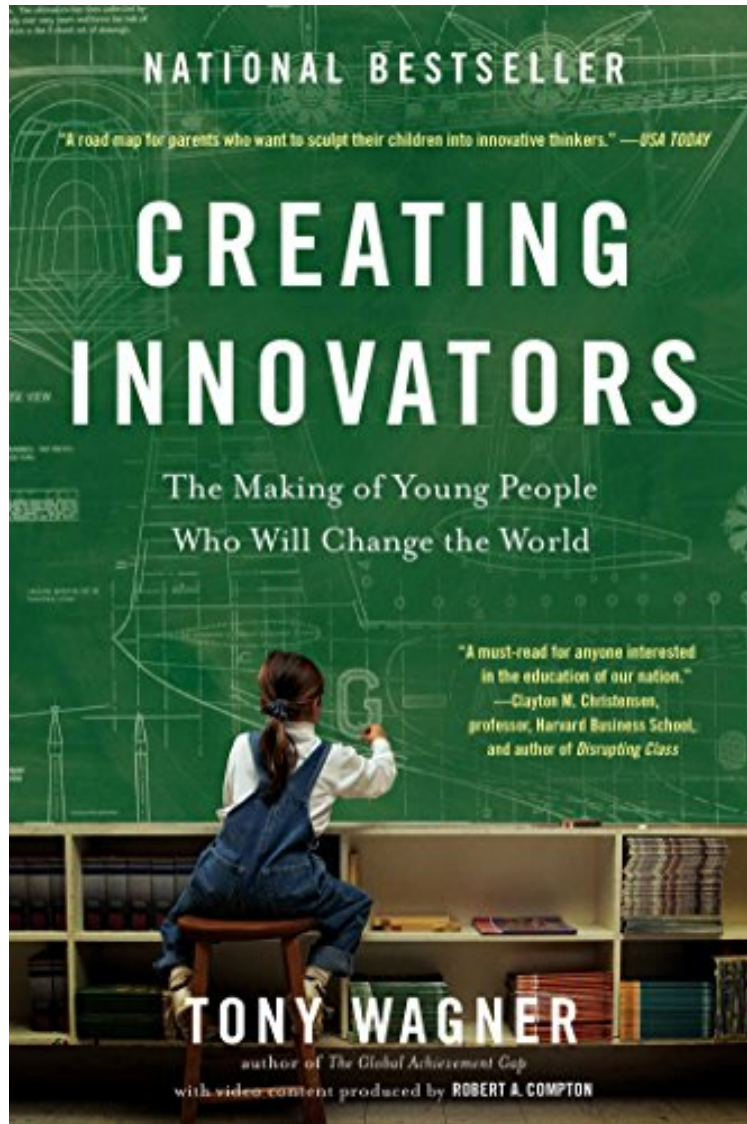


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Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World

Tony Wagner

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Tony Wagner : Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Generally useful with cautions
By Michael Ayers
Wagner's book makes a lot of sense. Let me first give him full credit for that. The critique he offers of our schools - K-16 - seems fair to me. The standardized test movement is plague that we need to eradicate from the country. We do need more

creative thinking, and critical thinking, and most schools do not seem to be in that business. And I agree that it comes back to high-quality leadership - in schools, families, corporations, community organizations. But the book has shortcomings from my perspective. He distills lessons from a body of interviews and draws sound generalizations ... from those interviews. I believe that he ought to let us know, however, that he is not talking about the vast majority of people. Rather he wants to make innovators out of the gifted minority. That's okay. But this is not innovation for everyman. I believe he also confuses innovation with creativity as concepts. I learned (at my Fortune 100 company) that innovation involves turning knowledge into money - that is, it isn't valuable unless someone values it enough to pay for it. It might be creative, therefore, but not innovative. Further, creativity has two formats (see Michael Kirton) - and one variety does indeed lead to innovation. The other leads to adaptation. Thus you can be creative in more than one way, and Wagner does not seem to acknowledge that. He also employs misleading dichotomies, such as making a difference versus making money. This is not an either/or phenomenon. I think you can do good while doing well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspired me to Build on my Passion By k. smith Innovation is a topic I've been heavily researching the past few months and this book has helped me immensely. The author has added tons of sources which are all put perfectly into context including statistics and personal stories. The stories of different innovators and how they got to where they are today are more than inspiring and deserve to be heard by students around the globe. The argument made that schools are hindering creativity are heavily backed up by not only the author but direct quotes from successful people, some of whom have dropped out. What was the most inspiring is seeing these different people all talk about their pasts and seeing how similar they all are, not only to each other but to my own past. Those who don't feel that similarity are not left out either, as the book teaches you what you need to do to be more creative. One of the best lessons I have personally taken out of this book is that creativity is not a talent that some people have and others don't, but a skill that can be improved given the right opportunities.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a lifelong process, not a destination. By Ilya Grigorik Creating Innovators offers an expose on what it takes to foster creative and entrepreneurial skills in students and adults alike - being an 'innovator' is not a destination, but a lifelong learning process. Tony Wagner provides a collection of interviews with a few students, parents, and their teachers, and tries to isolate the common threads: parenting styles, impact and role of mentors and teachers, and the role of the various educational institutions on their development. Given the small (and biased: US, middle-upper class, etc) sample size, it's hard to draw general results, but nonetheless, there are interesting patterns that emerge. No surprise, parenting style matters: you have to let the kids explore, make mistakes, and not stifle them with own ideas (or ambitions). Similarly, teachers and mentors have an enormous impact: knowledge is one thing, ability to relate that knowledge via practical projects and exploration is another - creating innovators requires (a lot) more than just rote fact acquisition (aka, passing standardized tests). How do you create environments that support this kind of development at home, at school, and at work? It's not an exact science, but this book highlights some interesting experiments and experiences.

From a prominent educator, author, and founder of Harvard's Change Leadership Group comes a provocative look at why innovation is today's most essential real-world skill and what young people need from parents, teachers, and employers to become the innovators of America's future. In this groundbreaking book, education expert Tony Wagner provides a powerful rationale for developing an innovation-driven economy. He explores what parents, teachers, and employers must do to develop the capacities of young people to become innovators. In profiling compelling young American innovators such as Kirk Phelps, product manager for Apple's first iPhone, and Jodie Wu, who founded a company that builds bicycle-powered maize shellers in Tanzania, Wagner reveals how the adults in their lives nurtured their creativity and sparked their imaginations, while teaching them to learn from failures and persevere. Wagner identifies a pattern—a childhood of creative play leads to deep-seated interests, which in adolescence and adulthood blossom into a deeper purpose for career and life goals. Play, passion, and purpose: These are the forces that drive young innovators. Wagner shows how we can apply this knowledge as educators and what parents can do to compensate for poor schooling. He takes readers into the most forward-thinking schools, colleges, and workplaces in the country, where teachers and employers are developing cultures of innovation based on collaboration, interdisciplinary problem-solving, and intrinsic motivation. The result is a timely, provocative, and inspiring manifesto that will change how we look at our schools and workplaces, and provide us with a road map for creating the change makers of tomorrow.

Creating Innovators will feature its own innovative elements: more than sixty original videos that expand on key ideas in the book through interviews with young innovators, teachers, writers, CEOs, and entrepreneurs, including Thomas Friedman, Dean Kamen, and Annmarie Neal. Produced by filmmaker Robert A. Compton, the videos are accessible via links and QR codes placed throughout the eBook text.

"A road map for parents who want to sculpt their children into innovative thinkers."—USA Today "In this fascinating book, Tony Wagner addresses one of our most urgent questions: How do we create the next generation of innovators? By telling the stories of young creators, and by taking us inside cutting-edge programs, Wagner shows

that the answer isn't to double-down on outmoded, formulaic solutions--but to embrace the principles of play, passion, and purpose. Creating Innovators is important reading for anyone concerned about the future."--Daniel H. Pink, author of Drive and A Whole New Mind

"In the equation of world success, superior innovation is the only factor that can keep America #1. Two passionate citizens, innovators in their own right, have produced a compelling prescription for our time. Read it, watch it, and spread the word."--Mitch Daniels, Governor, State of Indiana

"To combat the competitive threat from economies like Brazil, Russia, India and China, we must develop empowered entrepreneurs and innovators. Creating Innovators is a masterful work that shows us how. Tony Wagner's case studies reveal more about these fine innovators than he may have realized. World leaders, business executives, educators, policy makers and parents, take note!"--Dr. Annmarie Neal Founder, Center for Leadership Innovation and Former Chief Talent Officer, Cisco Systems

"Tony Wagner makes a compelling case for how our education system has to change if we are to create the innovators we need to face tomorrow's challenges. If you are an educator, a parent of a child struggling with conventional education, or an employer looking to have a pipeline of creative talent, then read this book, take note of the ideas and play your part in creating the change we must make happen."--Tim Brown, CEO of IDEO

"In my life I have met and worked with individuals who help create the world they live in--innovators. Their lives are so much more fulfilling than people who live in a world of someone else's creation. This book, in a clear, tangible way, explores how to help young people access skills of innovation and lead richer lives."--Brad Anderson, former CEO, Best Buy Corporation

"In just the click of a mouse, we left the Industrial Age for the Information Age. Now just as quickly, we find ourselves in a new age of our society and economy; the Innovation Age. Tony Wagner and Bob Compton have provided a powerful tool for parents, educators and students seeking success in this new society and economy."--Dr. Tony Bennett, Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

"Many have written about the paucity of innovation in America. Others have chronicled our schools' struggles to improve on dimensions of skills that matter. In this book, Wagner has positioned himself astride these critical challenges in a way that clarifies what we must do to address these problems, and how we can do it--making this a must read for anyone interested in the education of our nation."--Clayton Christensen, Professor, Harvard Business School, and author of Disrupting Class

"A seminal analysis promising hope for the future through small wonders in the classroom."--Kirkus

"A pioneering and invaluable work." (John Kao author of Innovation Nation)

"It is a pleasure to see an author so boldly stand up to the U.S. educational system. Innovators, outliers, positive deviants, and a host of other creative types will find kindred spirits in the individuals profiled in the book's case studies--not to mention a genuine advocate in Wagner himself. If only half of Wagner's suggestions for the future of innovation in education materialize, American students will be far better off tomorrow than they are today." (Harvard Education)

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"A pioneering and invaluable work about what it really takes to build innovation capability in society--by planting and cultivating innovators, one person at a time."--John Kao, Chairman of the Institute for Large Scale Innovation and author of Innovation Nation

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About the Author Tony Wagner currently serves as an Expert In Residence at Harvard University's Innovation Lab. Previously he has worked as a high school teacher, K-8 principal, university professor, and founding executive director of Educators for Social Responsibility. Tony is a frequent speaker at national and international conferences and the author of *Creating Innovators* and *The Global Achievement Gap*.