



ELA Think Tank / Leadership

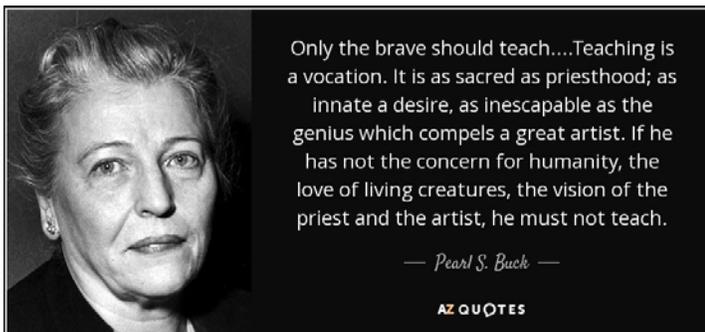
Welcome back! I'm looking forward to our work this year and hope you have had a restful, reflective, and rejuvenating summer! Those first days back with students are so important for so many reasons! I included some links to stimulate your own thinking about rituals, routines, and expectations. I wish you the best in 2016-2017 and know that the year with your students will have a positive start!

News from the Office of Standards & Instructional Support

Survey Monkey for ELA Think Tank: Please take a few minutes to complete the ten question survey at this address:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DXYFZ8T>. I want to use your input to create an agenda of discussion items for our 2016-2017 webinars, face-to-face meetings, and monthly e-updates. **I will leave the survey active until August 15.** I appreciate the responses so far – and want to give others a chance to contribute!

Only the Brave Should Teach



CDE News

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) will shape our work in the future. CDE has set up an [ESSA Blog](#) to help gather and disseminate information.

NCTE, CCIRA, CLAS Notes

CLAS: The [Colorado Language Arts Society](#) has information posted for its [2016 Regional Fall Conference](#) -- “For the Love of Teaching / Reclaiming the Classroom.” This year’s speakers include Taylor Mali, Jimmy Santiago Baca, and Sarah Brown Wessling. **More info and register [here](#).**

Have you ever considered writing an article for [Statement](#), the [Journal for the Colorado Language Arts Society](#)? They publish articles from Colorado teachers on a range of recurring topics: teaching ideas, outstanding lesson plans, vignettes from the classroom, expressive writing by Colorado teachers, and more. **Share your voice!**

CCIRA: The [Colorado Council International Reading Association](#) is looking forward to its 2017 Conference: “Golden Ingredients for 50 Years of Literacy,” February 4-7.

Research & Resources

Those **first days back** help us set the expectations, rituals, routines, and lay the foundation for the classroom culture and environment for learning.

[Planning for Your First Day at School](#)

[Routines and Schedules](#)

[The Value of Classroom Rituals & Routines](#)

[Routine, Ritual, and School Community](#)

[Who, What, When, and Where of Writing Rituals](#)

[Building Relationships with Students](#)

[A Crash Course in Building Effective Learning Relationships With Students](#)

[Developing Positive Teacher-Student Relations](#)

[Back to School Quotes](#) & [\(more\) Back to School Quotes](#)

Contact Info

Please feel free to contact me at puzick_v@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6583. I would love to have feedback on the monthly e-update or hear suggestions for topics you would like to have addressed.