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# Launch: Using Design Thinking To Boost Creativity And Bring Out The Maker In Every Student



## Synopsis

Something happens in students when they define themselves as makers and inventors and creators. They discover powerful skills—problem-solving, critical thinking, and imagination—that will help them shape the world's future ... our future. If that's true, why isn't creativity a priority in more schools today? Educators John Spencer and A.J. Juliani know firsthand the challenges teachers face every day: School can be busy. Materials can be scarce. The creative process can seem confusing. Curriculum requirements can feel limiting. Those challenges too often bully creativity, pushing it to the side as an "enrichment activity" that gets put off or squeezed into the tiniest time block. We can do better. We must do better if we're going to prepare students for their future. LAUNCH: Using Design Thinking to Boost Creativity and Bring Out the Maker in Every Student provides a process that can be incorporated into every class at every grade level ... even if you don't consider yourself a "creative teacher." In LAUNCH, teachers will discover practical strategies for using design thinking in the classroom to engage, inspire, and empower students. Here are a few key takeaways:

- Student projects that focus on making, designing, and creating
- Fixing the brainstorming process
- Structuring project-based learning to unleash creativity
- Building creative confidence in the classroom
- Leading a maker movement without spending a lot of money
- Are you ready to LAUNCH?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Teacher JOY! Students begging to be given MORE time to work on a project during the last week of school. This was our classroom reality due entirely to my year of being brave AND this book,

LAUNCH . One week after getting the book and one of the authors, Juliani, generously giving me the videos that most have to pay for, I went for it!Closed set of boxes at the front of class with a sign that stated, DO NOT OPEN, was the first step - my idea to get the students energized to keep on learning and growing to the very last moment. It was out for a day and the students were chomping at the bit. On Day 1 we completed the first four steps and got started on the fifth part of the LAUNCH cycle.Each student got a packet and then we watched the Super Hero City video - the Look, Listen, and Learn part of the cycle. The Seat Selector (yes, that is one of our classroom jobs I got from Learn Like a Pirate by Paul Solarz (#LearnLAP). There were oohhs and ahhs during the video and then hands shot up because their imagination engine had been ignited. Next came the Ask Tons of Questions phase - there were a ton and usually my answer was, "It's your Super Hero City, you decide." As predicted the students were anxious to begin building, but first each individually begin thinking about their Super Hero City - what was it going to look like, who were their super heroes, what were their powers, who were their arch-enemy. I always use a timer because it builds in focus.Then they shared their ideas as a group with one person facilitating the discussion, so that all got an opportunity (Another wonderful idea from #LearnLAP). EVERYONE shared, trust me, this project is a sure-fire winner in student engagement.

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