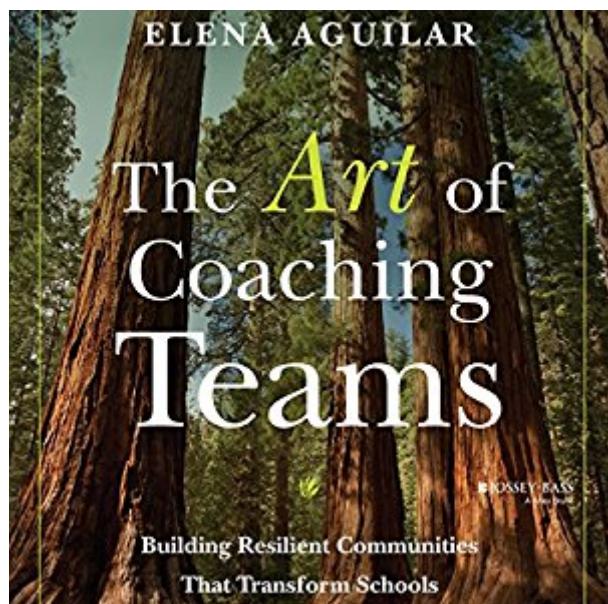


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# The Art Of Coaching Teams: Building Resilient Communities That Transform Schools



## Synopsis

The missing how-to manual for being an effective team leader. The Art of Coaching Teams is the manual you never received when you signed on to lead a team. Being a great teacher is one thing, but leading a team, or team development, is an entirely different dynamic. Your successes are public, but so are your failures - and there's no specific rubric or curriculum to give you direction. Team development is an art form, and this book is your how-to guide to doing it effectively. You'll learn the administrative tasks that keep your team on track, and you'll gain access to a wealth of downloadable tools that simplify the "getting organized" process. Just as importantly, you'll explore what it means to be the kind of leader that can bring people together to accomplish difficult tasks. You'll find practical suggestions, tools, and clear instructions for the logistics of team development as well as for building trust, developing healthy communication, and managing conflict. Inside these minutes you'll find concrete guidance on: Designing agendas, making decisions, establishing effective protocols, and more. Boosting your resilience, understanding and managing your emotions, and meeting your goals. Cultivating your team's emotional intelligence and dealing with cynicism. Utilizing practical tools to create a customized framework for developing highly effective teams. There is no universal formula for building a great team, because every team is different. Different skills, abilities, personalities, and goals make a one-size-fits-all approach ineffective at best. Instead, The Art of Coaching Teams provides a practical framework to help you develop your group as a whole, and keep the team moving toward their common goals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I could not more highly recommend this book to leaders in any sector working to create resilient highly effective teams. Elena Aguilar is able to offer leaders of teams a wealth of compelling clear philosophical principles and ways of being, AND concrete actionable practices backed by experience and research. This resource prompts personal development and professional development to equip a leader to thrive. It's a resource I will reread and come back to during my weekly reflection and planning routine for years to come.

This book is an invaluable resource to individuals and organizations involved in coaching teams of adults. Because the author has extensive experience coaching individuals and teams, she is able to combine research, best practice, and experience in her text. Additionally, the book is packed full of both practical advice, tools, forms, and surveys (many of which can be downloaded from the author's website). This is definitely a resource that I will use in my work with networks of educators in Alabama, particularly our network of instructional coaches.

It's easy to say that something is 'life-changing' or 'transforming'--we may use these terms too much these days. That being said, I would use both terms for *The Art of Coaching Teams*. This book has actually made me look at my supervisory role differently; my interactions with team members is more as a facilitator. I've always been one to be sensitive and empathetic to others, and Elena has made it clear that this can be an asset in your role as a coach/facilitator of a team. Her honesty about her past mis-steps as a team leader and how her research and self-reflections transformed her role helped me to be reflective around areas of improvement within myself. In no way does she say 'follow these magic steps, and all will be well!'. She gives examples of tools that can be helpful, and several different ways to approach different areas. I would highly recommend this book if you are working with a team and you are feeling stagnant or uncertain. It will help you not to become like Elena, but the best person you can be in your position.

I've read a lot of books about developing teams, and this one is unquestionably one of the best. Interesting and clearly written, the book offers a balance between theory and practice (with, for example, many sample handouts that you can use immediately with teams). Also, with purchase of the book, you get access to many of these resources in digital form on Elena Aguilar's website. If you're an educational leader interested in transforming your school, I highly recommend this book.

Elena Aguilar's first book, *the Art of Coaching*, fundamentally changed the way I engage with

individuals in my life. Though I read it as a novice coach, it is not an exaggeration to say that it had ripple effects in even my most intimate and long-lasting relationships. True to form, her second book, the Art of Coaching teams, is making a noticeable impact on how I interact in teams, both those I lead and those I am a part of. What I have come to love and deeply value from both Elena's books and her workshops (check out her website for a list of offerings!) is the balance she strikes between being philosophical, expansive, and empathetic, while also being deeply practical and solution-oriented. This book is filled with immensely helpful tools - Team Communication Agreements, Indicator's of a Team's Emotional Intelligence, Decision-Making Grids - and even includes, at the opening of the book, a guide for when to use what tool. Most of these resources are available for download from her site after purchase, which is also helpful for bringing them to team meetings. Alongside this, Elena shares stories of her own struggles and triumphs in leading teams seeking to transform schools. Ever conscious of the need to create more equitable conditions for both children and adults, her books is both a challenge and a beacon of hope. It should be required reading for school leaders and all those whose work seeks to create a more just, nimble, and loving world.

The Art of Coaching Teams is a super helpful book for those individuals who work with adults in a leadership capacity. The book includes short blurbs about two teams the author led. One of the teams was a bit negative and not very effective, and the other team was more positive and very effective. I found it easy to relate to the experiences in both. The book is very comprehensive, and I will be spending some more time with it this summer and coming up with a strategic plan of how to implement the many suggestions and protocols explained in the book. I would highly encourage others to read the book from cover to cover, but then I think it will be beneficial to come back to specific sections as questions and issues arise. The book is very practical and easy to read. It really makes one think about their own practices and facilitation skills.

Gain insight into fostering team development and success. I recently met Elena and heard her speak in a keynote and breakout session. She is authentic, insightful and spot on. Collaboration requires effective teams. Resilient teams adapt to and in fact thrive in change. Aguilar provides no-nonsense and compelling guidance to the work I am doing with my teams every day.

I have loved and used Elena Aguilar's The Art of Coaching for years, as a resource with site-based coaches and district leaders. The Art of Coaching Teams takes Aguilar's genius to the next level.

This book is a MUST-READ for coaches, administrators, and teacher leaders- really all educators! If we all took more time to develop a shared vision, tune in to our own emotional intelligence, we would develop trusting teams that can effectively make a difference for ALL students. Thank you Elena for sharing your hard work, your struggles, and your successes with us so we can learn from you. This book is an amazing resource!

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