

CHANGING THE ROLE OF STUDENT & TEACHER

When teachers embrace the goal of making their students' thinking visible and begin to make use of the associated practices, they begin to see shifts in the roles played by teachers and students. These shifts are small at first but over time have the potential to become seismic. To be sure, when many teachers start using thinking routines they may be merely tacked on to the traditional transmission model of teaching as ways to enliven learning. Even when this happens, teachers still may see glimmers of what's possible. Teachers must then embrace this potential and cultivate it through the regular, thoughtful application of MTV processes. They must adopt not only the practices but also the goal of visible thinking. This necessitates taking a new stance toward teaching, of changing the story of learning one is telling, and re-conceptualizing the goals of education.

While teachers whose classrooms are most transformed do not abandon curriculum or preparing students for high-stakes tests, they see their role as teaching beyond the test toward preparing students for a lifetime of learning. The test is only one small marker along the way. Listen to Cameron Paterson: "While I want my students to do well on the tests, I also want them to develop the dispositions they need to thrive in a globalized world full of robots - to be able to think for themselves, create and question."