

Mantra of an Innovative Educator
George Couros: *The Innovator's Mindset* (2015)

I am an educator.

I am an innovator.

I am an innovative educator and I will continue to ask, "What is best for learners?" With this empathetic approach, I will create and design learning experiences.

I believe that my abilities, intelligence, and talents can be developed, leading to the creation of new and better ideas.

I recognize that there are obstacles in education, but, as an innovator, I will focus on what is possible today and where I can push to lead towards tomorrow.

I will utilize the tools that are available to me today, and I will continue to search for new and better ways to grow, develop, and share my thinking, while creating and connecting my learning.

I focus not only on where I can improve, but where I am already strong, and I look to develop those strengths in myself and in others.

I build upon what I already know, but I do not limit myself. I'm open to and willing to embrace new learning, while continuously asking questions that help move me forward.

I question thinking, challenge ideas, and do not accept, "This is the way we have always done it" as an acceptable answer for our students or myself.

I model the learning and leadership I seek in others. I take risks, try new things to develop, and explore new opportunities. I ask others to take risks in their learning, and I openly model that I'm willing to do the same.

I believe that isolation is the enemy of innovation, and I will learn from others to create better learning opportunities for others and myself.

I connect with others both locally and globally to tap into ideas from all people and spaces. I will use those ideas, along with my professional judgment, to adapt the ideas to meet the needs of the learners in my community.

I believe in my voice and experiences, as well as the voice and experiences of others, as they are important for moving education forward.

I share because the learning I create and the experiences I have help others. I share to push my own thinking and to make an impact on learners, both young and old, all over the world.

I listen and learn from different perspectives because I know we are much better together than we could ever be alone. I can learn from anyone in any situation.

I actively reflect on my learning because I know looking back is crucial to moving forward.