

Teachers Need the Freedom of Professionalization

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Jack Schneider's policy [recommendations](#) to improve teaching – for teachers and children - would not address the [problems cited](#) by star teacher, Nancie Atwell. She said that teachers are being made into, “mere technicians.” “They open the box, and they read the script, and that's not what good teaching is about. It's an intellectual enterprise, and that's been stripped from it by the current climate.”

At least as interesting, and sad, are the published comments on the Nancie Atwell quotes. According to the editor, “Many [of the comments] praised her for going public with hard truths about the profession that reflected their own experiences.” So, addressing those realities from within the system is seen as a bad career move. That is a symptom of a common fact. The people within a system cannot or will not bring about the needed changes. Another comment urged young people to adopt a teaching career to “be the change;” painfully distracting wishful thinking. We can't afford to wait for teachers to successfully fight the system that gives them their marching orders. It will almost certainly take externally-driven, [systemic change](#) to achieve school reform or classroom reform.