



Philosophy of Education

Nel Noddings

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Acclaimed as the "best overview in the field" by the *Teaching Philosophy* and predicted to "become the standard textbook in philosophy of education" by *Educational Theory*, this now-classic text includes an entirely new chapter on problems of school reform, examining issues of equality, accountability, standards, and testing.

Philosophy of Education Details

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From Reader Review Philosophy of Education for online ebook

Billie Pritchett says

The first part of Nel Nodding's *Philosophy of Education* is pretty good. In the first part she sets up the different views on philosophy of education, sweeping through ancient to contemporary philosophy in two chapters. She has a fair chapter on Critical Thinking and its role in educational theory. After that, the book drags quite a bit. The book appears to be more interested in tangent topics rather than the topic of philosophy of education. To take an example, in a chapter regarding morality and education, the writing gets mired in some of the particularities of Aristotle's ethics instead of pointing up just how relevant (or irrelevant, if such is the case) his ethics is to educational theory and of what use we can make of. Wish there were a better book out there on philosophy of education, but at least good for its early portions and also for its recommended readings.

Efe Misirli says

Excellent, comprehensive and surprisingly readable account of Philosophy of Education. Exceed my expectations.

Christopher Covey says

Great Summary of Philosophical Issues and their Relation to Education

For in-service teachers, an excellent and thoughtful book on Western philosophical and how they relate to the contemporary practices in the field of education today.

Ali Sattari says

Since it assumes readers have some background in philosophy, it shouldn't be used as text book for an introductory course.

Lisa says

This book attempted an overview of educational philosophy but was a bit too advanced for me. While I appreciated the examples and clarifications, I was still often lost in the language and the author's opinions too often clouded the explanations as I neared the end of the text. I believe if I read it again after a few more years of study it would be quite useful.

Amy says

A good read and a solid introduction to educational philosophy. Has a bit of jargon at times though, and could use more descriptive examples to make the material more memorable.

Deb Crislip-Baker says

Philosophy of Education by Nel Noddings had some good, valid points about education. However, there were also a few chapters that delved a little too deeply into what "truth" is and how to be "logical."

Jeff says

This overview of the philosophy of education is a good survey of thinking on education through the ages. Noddings comes to the subject with a strong commitment to dialogue between competing view points, and thus presents a wide variety of perspectives on concepts as diverse as logic, epistemology, ethics, equity, and accountability.

However, her own strong conviction for an ethic of care overshadows the presentation of competing perspectives. Noddings argues that unbiased reporting is impossible, and thus is open about her own agenda. I appreciate her openness, but I was left feeling like some points from people that would disagree with her are watered down and simplified. It helps that I generally agree with everything that she has to say. Specifically, I appreciate how she highlights the importance of relationships in any learning interaction. However, I disagree with her thinking about learning standards, and am curious about a more expansive exploration of the contrasting points of view which get short shrift here.

Paul says

I am not sure I would understand the educational philosophy of Dewey without this book. I certainly would struggle with phenomenology. Noddings addresses all of the great questions of education in this book. What is learning? What is teaching? What is truth? What is the purpose of education? Is there only one purpose? How much education for who?

She also includes a greatest hits of the top educational philosophers, with Dewey getting the most "air time." I highly recommend this book to anyone with a philosophical bend of mind.

Mills College Library says

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Q Crain says

This book does two things superbly:

1. Offers a theory of education which has a real chance of resulting in the type of person we all want as fellow citizens and friends; AND
2. Gives a summary of various Philosophies such as: Pragmatism, Utilitarianism, Existentialism, Epistemology, and topics such as: Morality, Science, Testing, and Feminism, as they relate in and to Education.

Because Noddings is not a "philosopher", she is easy to read. This makes this book an accessible way into these ideas. Academia is far too abstruse, thus cutting it off from making real impact outside its rarified environment; and Noddings in general is a welcome corrective.

I feel this is a must read.
