

# Author conversations

## *On empowering students*

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It's sort of interesting, and both of you talked about this earlier, about starting out as researchers and gravitating towards teaching. And I think what I'm hearing from everyone is that really, the teaching process is what has informed the writing of the textbooks, right? I mean all of this is coming out of the classroom. It's from wanting your students to be engaged, wanting them to have a more meaningful experience in whatever our disciplines are. And, you know, that teaching part is really important.

We want to empower our students. That's huge, right? We talk about critical thinking, but really, we want our students to be able to think for themselves. And now I'm quoting *Mathematics and Democracy*, but it's a good quote, so, we want our students to be able to think for themselves, to ask intelligent questions of experts, and to be able to confront authority confidently. And that's huge, right? We want them to fully participate as citizens in this democratic society.

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