

Book feedback

9 messages

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Mon, Dec 23, 2019 at 5:00 PM

To: Naomi Fisher <[REDACTED]>

Dear Naomi,

Happy holidays! You're one of a handful of colleagues I'm writing regarding my new book. I'm hoping to convince you to look at the manuscript and offer me some feedback within the next two weeks.

The book, *Why Are You Still Sending Your Kid to School?*, is for parents who see that their kids don't fit into conventional school, but they're not sure what to do about it. Perhaps they've investigated "alternatives" but stopped at the level of traditional progressive schools and homeschooling. My goal is to offer these parents a gateway into the realms of of unschooling, democratic free schools, self-directed learning centers, and outdoor/experiential education by showing how reasonable, established, and exciting these paths are.

Along the way, I tear down much of the scaffolding supporting conventional education: the notion of college as one true path to success, the tenets of "intensive parenting," and traditional beliefs about the value of work and play. The book contains many practical suggestions, and I'm also building a whole separate [online resource page](#) that shares concrete suggestions related to each chapter.

Okay, that's the extremely short overview of the book. You can find a slight longer version on the [draft page of the book's Kickstarter](#).

At this point, I won't make any large, sweeping changes to the book. Its bones and muscles are firmly in place, but the sinews could use your help.

Here's the most important feedback I'm seeking:

- Do you see any glaring mistakes, confusions, contradictions, or hypocrisies?
- Are you aware of any stories/anecdotes that I could add to support one of my arguments?
- Are there any moments where I'm being too negative—or too optimistic?
- Do I ever fail to give credit where credit is due?
- What resources might I add to the online resource page?
- Does anything about this book need to change in order for you to support it?

From you specifically, Naomi, I'd love to find out:

- Are my arguments about self-determination theory (Ch. 3) and heredity/environment (Ch 5) sound, in your opinion?
- From the perspective of the UK & France, how applicable are these book's arguments? I want to be inclusive of Western Europe audiences as best I can!

If you have the time, a few bonus questions + a request:

- Do you have any ideas for the book's subtitle? (I don't yet.)
- Do you have any feedback regarding the [text](#) of the draft [Kickstarter](#) campaign? (Don't mind the header image, it will change.)
- [THIS WOULD BE REALLY GREAT] If you love the manuscript and feel you can support it, would you write a 1-2 sentence praise blurb for the Kickstarter page? (This can be fun and casual—it's only to support the Kickstarter. I'll ask you later for an "official" book blurb.)

I'm aware that the manuscript has typos and punctuation / formatting issues; don't worry about those, I'll have my copyeditor sort them out.

I'm seeking your feedback by Tuesday, January 7th. The manuscript is ~56,000 words (not counting end-of-chapter notes), which is about **3 hours of reading time**. I know the holidays are busy and you simply might not have time for this! But it's also nice to have an excuse to escape the festivities for a while, am I right? Let me be that excuse! 😊

You can send feedback in a number of ways:

- Hit "reply" and share your thoughts via email
- Download the attached Word file and make comments / changes using Track Changes. (You can send it back as either a Word or Pages file.)
- Leave me a voice message via voicemail or Whatsapp: [REDACTED]

My game plan, in case you're wondering: After receiving feedback from those who can offer it, I'll revise the MS once more in mid-January. Then I'll send it to my copyeditor, launch the Kickstarter, and (hopefully!) raise the funds necessary to pay my editors and get professional cover design, interior design, audiobook production, etc. Then I'll put all of the self-publishing puzzle pieces together (as I did with my last two books) and have a final product ready in May 2020.

Okay, that's everything. Thanks for reading this long and unsolicited email. I'll send you a quick followup email on January 1st. Any feedback that you can send—however minimal—will be deeply appreciated.

Cheers,
Blake Boles

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