



# INTRODUCTION

Inquiry-based instruction sounds complicated but is deceptively simple. Inquiry is teaching in such a way that the students are doing most of the work. They are asking questions. They are researching complex problems. They are formulating opinions. They are even at times teaching and offering feedback. Inquiry works at every grade level and in every subject area.

Given constraints of the traditional school model, *implementing* inquiry is the tricky part. Plenty of books will be able to tell you the benefits of inquiry, the research behind inquiry, and even processes to follow in the context of a subject area. But that's not enough. Implementing inquiry involves changing beliefs about the teacher and student roles in the classroom. It involves dispositional shifts as well as procedural ones. Most critically, it requires us as teachers to engage in inquiry ourselves.

**The purpose of this book is to offer you inquiry experiences so that you can teach in an inquiry-based way.**

When my son asks, "How do I play like Messi?" he's not looking for a biomechanical explanation of how to play like the soccer phenom. He wants to *play*! This book offers you the same: the opportunity to *do* inquiry as you read about it.

You may be thinking, "Yeah, thanks for that, but I'd rather just read a book about inquiry. Just tell me what to do!" I get it. Reading is easier. It's more comfortable and less time-consuming. It doesn't require you to put on your shoes, reorganize your schedule, or talk with others. But like listening to a lecture, it's not as effective either. It's a lot like Jell-O; we may be moved (or wiggled) but remain essentially unchanged. Even the most insightful books and dynamic workshops will fade from memory over time. Rarely do they translate into deep, long-lasting behavioral changes.

Real change in how we teach, not just occasionally, but *essentially*, will require all of us to get out of our seats and comfort zones. It will require us to move and *be moved*. Roll your eyes. But you know it's necessary. Are you ready?