



Student Voices in Higher Education 2026

 11-12 February 2026

 BMA House | London, UK

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Free to attend





Student Voices

in Higher Education

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Student Voice, within the Student Voice

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Mark Warner

Senior Lecturer: Teacher
Education, Nescot
College Surrey. College
of Further and Higher
Education



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Jackie O'Connor

Moving and Handling
Trainer, GESH: St
George's, Epsom and St
Helier Hospitals and
Health Group



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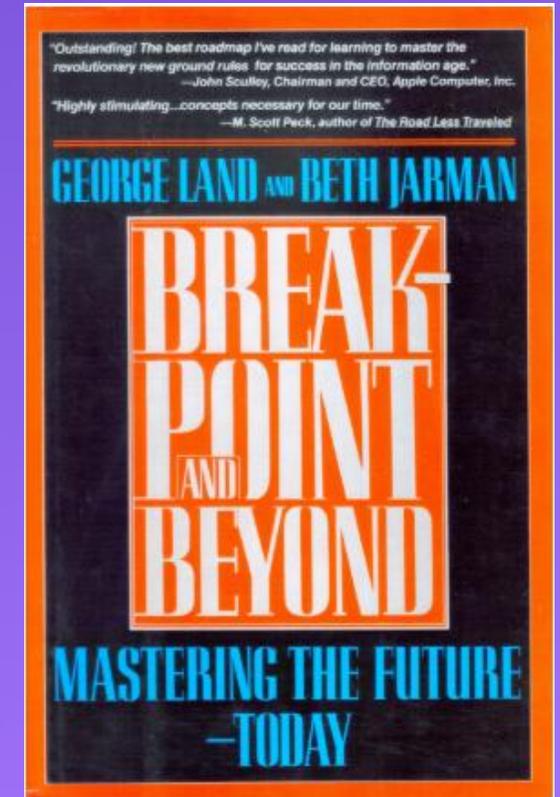
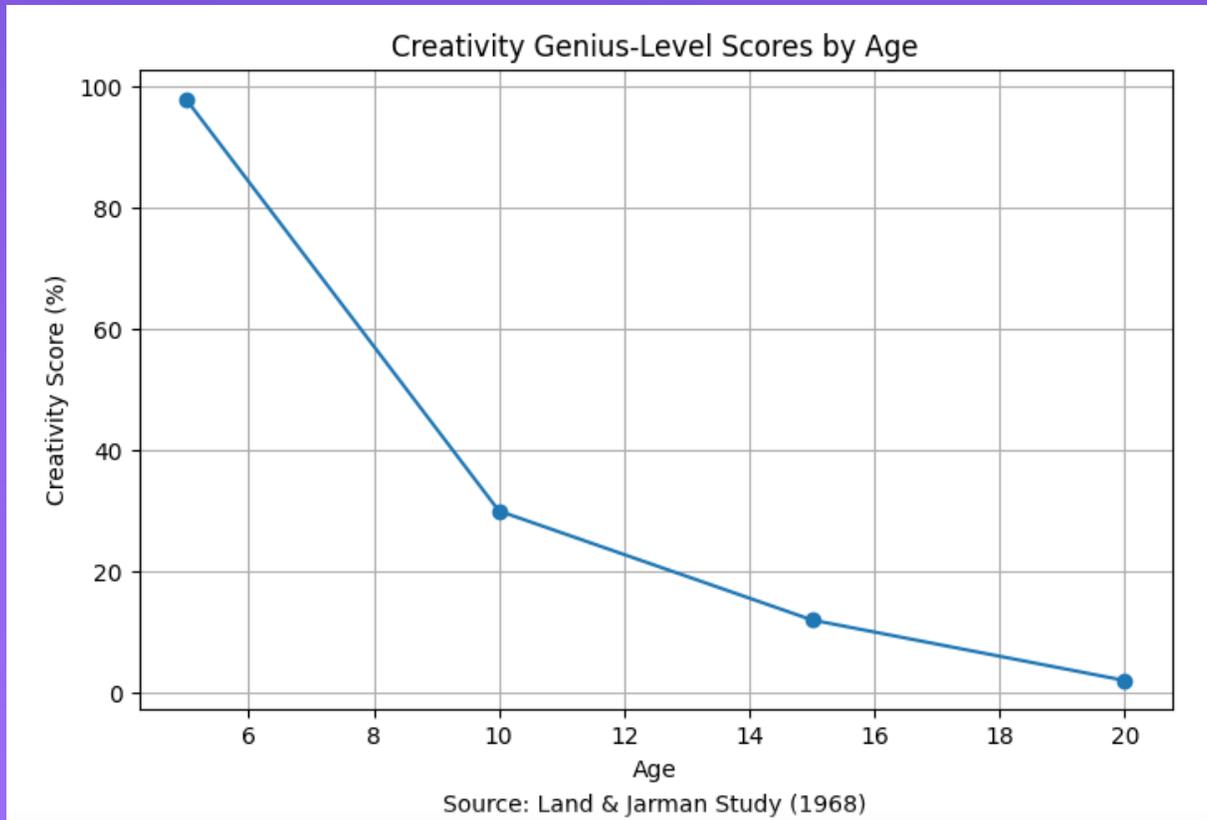

St George's, Epsom &
St Helier University Hospitals
and Health Group

The student experience of Education before University.



COURSE	Achievement	Grade	Grade
English	D ⁻	C	D
Algebra	F	B	C
Computer Science	C		D
Biology	F		
World History	D ⁻		
Hebrew	F	C ⁺	

The Research of George Land and Beth Jarman



The Problem?

Student voice requires divergent thinking — the very ability their research shows is diminished.

Land & Jarman, argue:

- Traditional schooling suppresses divergent thinking by rewarding correct answers, conformity, and rule following.
- When students do not feel heard, their agency, engagement, and creative participation diminish.
- This decline is linked to standardised, compliance oriented educational structures where children become less talkative, less imaginative, less expressive, and less able to make novel connections.

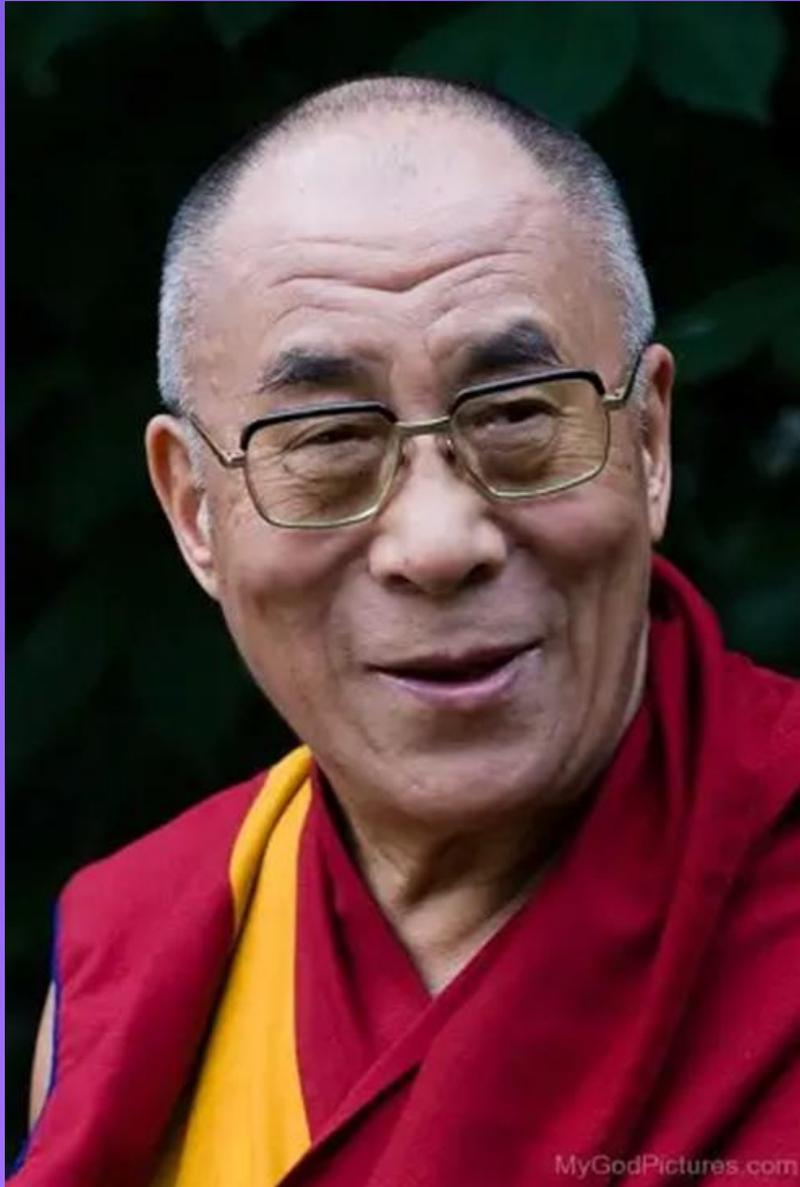
The late Sir Ken Robinson



“Education is meant to be a process by which we engage people in their fullness to give them a sense of who they are and their capabilities so they can learn a life that means something to them and the rest of us!”



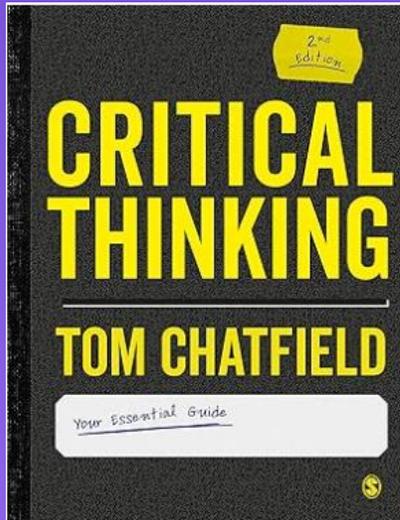
As an NHS Trainer



The Dalai Lama said 'to be born is a miracle'.

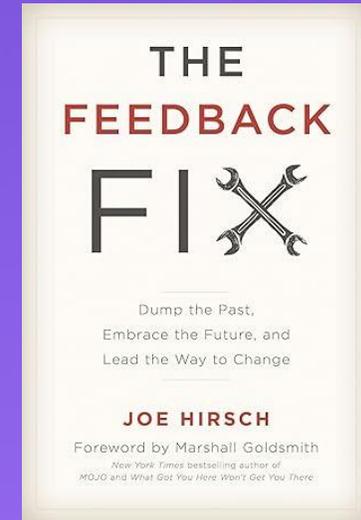
What are you going to do with this life?

The Solution, as we see it.

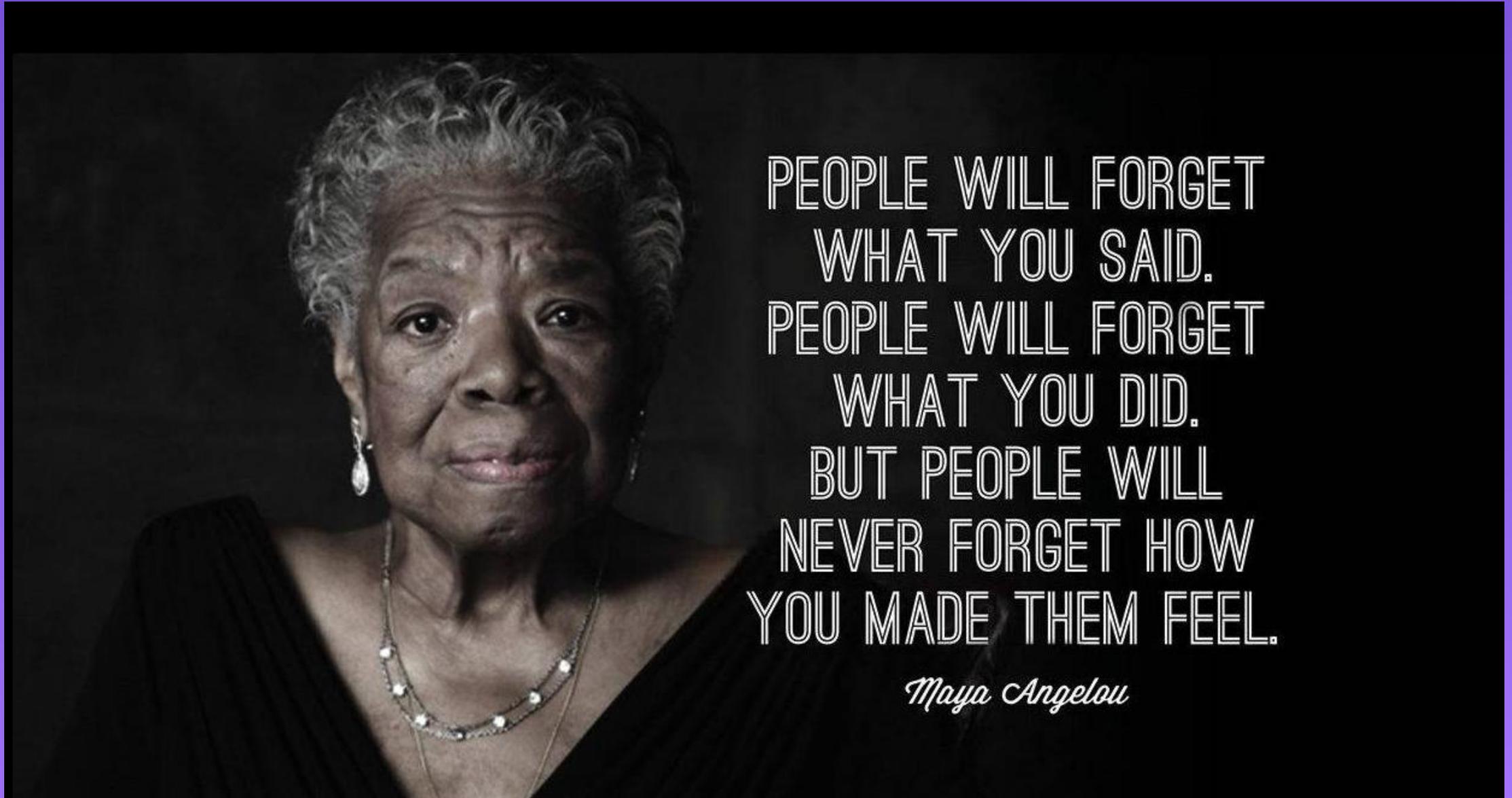


Developing teaching quality and accessibility of critical thinking in the curriculum using the Critical Thinking Skills Toolkits (CTST)
Hilary Wason,

<https://researchinnovation.kingston.ac.uk/en/publications/developing-teaching-quality-and-accessibility-of-critical-thinkin-2/>



- Student voice actively cultivates the conditions needed to **restore** the creative capacities Land & Jarman found in young children
- Students become more talkative, more imaginative, more expressive, and more able to make critical connections



PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU SAID.
PEOPLE WILL FORGET
WHAT YOU DID.
BUT PEOPLE WILL
NEVER FORGET HOW
YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Maya Angelou