The reason so many educators at all levels swear by Hunter is that her model is clear, is immediately applicable, and provides a common language all can understand.

We had not seen Susan, the teacher, since the summer of 1985 when she was a student in a graduate class we taught based on the work of Madeline Hunter. When she appeared in our offices this summer, her face was wreathed in smiles as she reported on her "best year" ever in the classroom. She had left our class, after studying and practicing Hunter's principles and being coached in their use, with a rather severe self-analysis. During her years of teaching, she said, she had asked children to learn things they could not learn; she had failed to provide her students with a sense of the meaning of what she had taught; and she had maintained generally disorderly classrooms.

In the final paper Susan had submitted in class, she proposed a broad plan to rectify these problems and goals for attacking the worst ones. She would use task analysis to ensure that her students were learning "the next thing." She would use her knowledge of students' lives to give personal meaning to their learning tasks. And she would use reinforcement theory to help create an orderly classroom environment.

Sam, a professor of biological sciences, had participated in a seminar on college teaching, which was also based on Hunter's work. Concerned about less-than-positive student evaluations, Sam experienced a different kind of joy. After years of college-level instruction, he told us the seminar brought him face to face with the designing of instruction. Prior to our course, he had viewed instruction as a simple matter of transferring knowledge from his mind to his students' minds. Now student evaluations of his teaching were showing that he had become more captivating and interesting and was using a variety of approaches. His students were performing better on tests, too. No intellectual flyweight, Sam now could see the...
"There exists a vast chasm, which educators call the theory-to-practice gap. Madeline Hunter has been busily filling it for years."

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Yes, I want to be a member of the National Staff Development Council. Enclosed is my 1987 dues check for $39 (U.S. funds).

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