

## Six Belief Systems

In his book, *Cognitive Coaching*, Robert Garmston (with co-author Arthur Costa) identifies six predominant ideologies that influence educators' decision making. After reading these descriptions, go back and rank them according to your personal priorities and belief systems. Now imagine doing this activity with a group of colleagues. What do you think the results might be at your school?

Belief System	Description	Self-Ranking	Colleague	Colleague
<b>Social Reconstructionism</b>	Social Reconstructionists believe that the purpose of education is to help students become good citizens who can help take care of the world.			
<b>Academic Rationalism</b>	Academic rationalists believe that knowledgeable adults have the wisdom and experience to know what's best for students. They often deliver teacher-centered instruction, are drawn to the Classics, and use instructional strategies such as lectures, memorization, demonstration, and drill.			
<b>Technologist</b>	Technologists place strong emphasis on accountability, test scores, learning specific sub-skills and measurable learning. They might be "driven by data," and frequently use terms such as <i>accountability, time on task, mastery, diagnosis</i> and <i>prescription</i> .			
<b>Self-Actualization</b>	Those who believe in self-actualization believe that the purpose of teaching is to bring out the unique qualities, potentials, and creativity in each child.			
<b>Cognitive Process</b>	Educators who are primarily aligned to this stance believe that the central role of schools is to help students learn to think, reason, and problem solve.			
<b>Religious Orthodoxy</b>	This ideology aims to teach the habits and values that will lead to that religion's realization of how life ought to be lived in accordance with that faith.			

The content of this worksheet was originally published in "Teacher Collaboration: When Belief Systems Collide" by Elena Aguilar.