National Board Certified Teacher, author, and Editor-in-Chief at Cult of Pedagogy, Jennifer Gonzalez blends her broad pedagogical and technical knowledge, down-to-earth honesty, and sense of humor to deliver inspiring keynotes and practical lectures and workshops.

In her everyday work, Jennifer digs into the topics most teachers don’t have enough time to study deeply on their own: teaching methodology, classroom management, learning theory, and educational technology. Then she extracts the most valuable information from it all and shares it with teachers so they can run with it.

Because every event is different, Jennifer will customize a package of services for your unique needs, including resources your group can continue to use long after the event has come and gone.

"TO STAND BEFORE CHILDREN IS A RARE PRIVILEGE. IN EVERY MINUTE WE SPEND TOGETHER, THEY WILL LEARN SOMETHING. LET’S MAKE IT GOOD."
PROGRAM OPTIONS

KEYNOTE
30-60 minutes (adjustable for your event)
Inspiring talks to get your audience motivated and thinking differently, using a combination of stories, research, and thought-provoking questions.

LECTURE
30-90 minutes (adjustable for your event)
These sessions deliver practical information that can be taken into classrooms and applied right away. Participants will have some opportunities to participate in turn-and-talk-style conversations, but most of the session will have the feel of a traditional lecture. This is a good option when the facility doesn’t allow for much audience movement. All lecture topics can be modified to be delivered as workshops (see below).

WORKSHOP
1-3 hours (adjustable for your event)
These sessions cover the same topics as the lectures, but they give participants a much more active role, incorporating movement, discussion, and time to start applying the concepts to each teacher’s content area. These work best in a space where participants can move easily and have tables for collaboration.

All lectures and workshops come with a digital download summarizing the session’s key points and providing links to more resources online.
KEYNOTES

THE AERODYNAMICS OF EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS

In any school, just as in air travel, four forces work to affect our progress: lift, the tools we select to meet student needs; thrust, the energy and enthusiasm we put into improving our practice; weight, the raw materials we have to work with—socioeconomics, budget constraints, student readiness; and drag, the resistance to change from colleagues, students, and parents.

We come together at events and conferences to improve our lift by discovering new technologies and practices. But our excitement can be dampened when we meet the forces of weight and drag that await us in our schools.

What’s missing is thrust: We know what it’s going to take to improve our schools, but we have to get better at convincing other stakeholders to get on board. Lessons from change management theory and advice from teachers who have been there will give us the tools we need to encourage our colleagues, get buy-in from students and parents, and make our schools truly exceptional.

NURTURING STUDENT PASSIONS WITH TECHNOLOGY

Our students already have the raw ingredients to become the people they are meant to be; we aren’t responsible for turning them into those people. But what we can do, what we must do if we are to take our work seriously and realize the incredible power we have, is to do everything we can to help them discover that person.

So how do we do this? We create the optimal conditions for growth. We structure our time, our schools, our teaching, and our attitudes in such a way that gives every student a much better chance at reaching much closer to their full potential. And we do everything we can to give them access to the tools that will get them there.

In this keynote, we explore stories of students who have been able to use technology to amplify their voices and develop their skills in areas they are passionate about. Then we’ll look at ten things educators can do NOW to create the optimal conditions for all students to grow.
LECTURES / WORKSHOPS

RESEARCH-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES TO USE IN ANY SUBJECT AREA

What does cognitive psychology tell us about how the brain learns, and how can we apply this to our teaching? In this session, participants will learn a collection of research-based strategies that can be used to boost learning in most grade levels and subject areas.

START AT THE END: APPLYING BACKWARD DESIGN TO CLASSROOM TECH

How do we avoid getting distracted by the "shiny objects" of tech and stay focused on learning? One way is with backward design. Using examples from different content areas, we’ll look at how teachers can first clarify what students should know or be able to do by the end of a learning cycle, then choose the experiences and technology that will get them there.

THE EMOTIONAL CLIMATE OF YOUR CLASSROOM

The emotional climate of a classroom significantly impacts students’ academic achievement. If you struggle with classroom management, unmotivated students, or lessons that just don’t go well, the problem might have something to do with climate. This session will examine four areas that affect classroom climate—academic safety, validation, connection, and modeling—and specific ways you can make improvements in each area.
TECH AND THE BRAIN: MATCHING TOOLS WITH THE RESEARCH ON LEARNING

The research on how we learn best is coming in all the time: We are discovering more powerful ways to help students process information at higher levels, anchor concepts in long-term memory, and transfer ideas to other contexts. Now it’s time to leverage technology to make these practices even more effective. In this session, we’ll look at a collection of research-based learning principles and how each one can be boosted by pairing them with specific tools.

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS

Relationships are the foundation of a successful classroom. In this session, participants will learn techniques for making genuine, long-lasting connections with every student. In the workshop version, participants will have a chance to practice each technique. This high-energy workshop is a great way to build staff morale while learning valuable classroom techniques.

SUPPORTING STUDENT READERS AND WRITERS IN EVERY CLASS

Teachers in all subjects are now expected to support student reading and writing. In this session, participants will explore why students need literacy support in every class, the misconceptions that keep teachers in non-ELA content areas from effectively delivering this support, and the surprisingly simple strategies teachers can use to support student reading and writing in any content area.