



GROUND TEACHING

SPEAKING & WORKSHOP SERVICES

" If we trace the patterns between the dysfunction of the education system, the problem is clear: education is modeled after an industrial, mechanical operating system.

A lifeless system serving living humans for a living world.

The question then, is: *What do we do differently?* We look to the living world for new models-- and, good news! They are out there! "

SARAH POTTLE
CO-FOUNDER
GROUND TEACHING

Grounded Teaching started 4 years ago. Since then we've helped nonprofit organizations, school leaders, classroom teachers, homeschool parents, curriculum writers, and even corporations shift away from operating through extractive, mechanical models towards living models. Those we've helped have experienced more energy, more reciprocity, more purpose, and more emergence in their daily work.

CONTACT US

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www.groundedteaching.com

The Humans Behind Grounded Teaching

We are Sarah and Jess, the team behind Grounded Teaching. Our educational experience runs deep, with a total combined classroom experience of almost three decades, two National Board Certifications, Masters Degrees in Education, and thousands of young students we've had the pleasure of teaching. We've personally coached hundreds of classroom teachers, school leaders, business owners, and homeschool parents, and we have led hundreds of hours of workshops and professional developments for educators and educational leaders. Sarah has specifically worked in a few hundred schools in over fifty school districts in the United States. Sarah has been a Keynote Speaker for the Wharton school of Education and has served as a part of a Federal Department of Education working group. Sarah is the creator and host of the Regenerative Ed podcast which aims to find a new way forward for educators who care about a more regenerative future.

Despite the deep educational experience above,
Grounded Teaching would not exist without our work and learning outside the silo of the ed system.

What we've learned about living systems has mostly come from our work as organizers in local food and fiber movements, regenerative farming, health coaching & yoga, textile art, and leaders in projects that connect people. This work outside of the educational system has humbly helped us unlearn the standard mode of operation in education and see the potential for a different way.



The remainder of this document contains a list of the speaking services we offer.

All offerings can be virtual or in-person.

If you'd like to consider in-depth coaching or consulting instead, [please return to this page.](#)

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SPEAKING OFFERINGS

1. CHOOSE: KEYNOTE OR WORKSHOP

2. CHOOSE: YOUR TOPIC



Keynotes

Simple presentation without audience interaction throughout. There is an option for Q&A at the end with additional time.



Workshops

Presentation is built for audience interaction, discussion, and work time.



All keynotes and workshops come with a unique-to-you PDF to continue the thinking and application long after the keynote or workshop has ended.

TOPICS

WHAT DO LIVING SYSTEMS SAY ABOUT FEEDBACK? SYSTEMS FOR SELF-OBSERVATION AND SELF-GOVERNANCE

Workshop: 90 minutes | Keynote 45-60 minutes

Giving and receiving feedback seems like such a natural part of the territory in education. It's what we're attempting when we assign a grade or when we have a teacher evaluation. Unfortunately, because of how feedback is structured, it has the opportunity to destroy a team culture or interpersonal relationships. Learn how to set up a feedback system as a living system, customized for your specific scenario, whether it's at the classroom level, the school level, within your district or within your organization. Leave this keynote or workshop with a clearer understanding of why feedback so often doesn't work as intended and strategies for doing it differently.

(TOPICS CONTINUED ON NEXT PG)

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TOPICS, CONTINUED

USING LIVING SYSTEMS PATTERNS TO ENERGIZE YOUR LEARNING SPACE

Workshop: 90 minutes | Keynote 45-60 minutes

Patterns exist everywhere we look in natural systems. By focusing on three distinct patterns, we can start to design work flows and classroom flows that operate with more ease and create energy instead of zap it. These patterns can be applied to all sorts of energy flows: everything from lesson plan structures to discussion formats to parent conferences to community programming. This keynote or workshop can be customized to your group and context. It will help connect you to the natural world while also providing strategies and consideration for application.

TEACHING: FOCUSING ON THE SPACE IN BETWEEN ALL THE THINGS

Workshop: 90 minutes | Keynote 45-60 minutes

Our work is dotted with the successes and failures that create the arcs of our careers in education, our times in the classroom, or even our lives at home. Our attention is grabbed by people, grades, assignments, parents, events. Our relationships are based on the individual students, colleagues, friends and family members in our lives. But what if we had a better understanding of what was holding all of those things together? Of what actually made all these things important or unimportant? This keynote/workshop topic focuses on the space between those things-- the relationships and how to attune to them better to get clearer pictures of what's actually happening at work, as well as more fulfilling relationships to each other and to ourselves.

THE EDGE EFFECT: CREATING MORE LIFE THROUGH CHALLENGES IN YOUR LEARNING SPACES

Workshop: 90 minutes | Keynote 45-60 minutes

As educators, we know that growth is all about the challenge and cycles of the challenge. Living systems are based on cycles, too: life, death, new iterations. In an ecosystem, if a challenge is too simple or too difficult, the living thing will be thrown out of balance and begin to die. So where's the sweet spot? Looking to living systems... But there is a sweet spot to challenge, and living systems actually have a lot to say about where you can find them and why it matters. This keynote/workshop topic will help you understand where you might be selling yourself or your students or staff short when it comes to challenge. We'll use examples and metaphors from the living world to better understand how to concretely create more challenges in our learning spaces.

UNSUBSCRIBING TO THE ALGORITHM: TEACHING IN A WAY ONLY YOU CAN TEACH

Workshop: 90 minutes | Keynote 45-60 minutes

It sounds like a trope at this point: we're all as unique as a snowflake yada yada yada. It's almost white noise, and that means we've stopped really believing it, or, at least, attuning to it. That's likely because we're distracted or we've gotten used to the short-term benefits of standardization-- without really seeing what we're sacrificing in the long-term. This keynote or workshop will give you the opportunity to notice the standardization all around you, remember who you are, and create space to educate from that place. We'll do this concretely with strategies and practices you'll be able to use immediately.

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