Schooling and Society
Myths of Mass Education

This new book is a wide-ranging, contemporary and accessible analysis of familiar and recurring myths about mass education in the United Kingdom. Looking at a variety of important issues and problems, each chapter begins by dispelling myths and assumptions about the classroom, going beyond class, race and gender, to offer analysis of topics such as discipline, youth cultures, information technology and globalisation. Utilising an interdisciplinary lens, this book offers knowledge from disciplines as diverse as sociology, philosophy, jurisprudence and cultural studies. Gordon Tait examines the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches to education, from critical theory to postmodernism, and Foucaultian governance to post-colonialism. Analysing the many assumptions about education taken for granted in British public discourse, important conclusions are drawn about which of these assumptions are fair and reasonable, and which we should challenge. This book is an essential resource for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate courses on the sociology of education, culture and education, and the philosophy of education.

Gordon Tait is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at Queensland University of Technology. An award-winning teacher, he has taught Sociology and Philosophy for over 30 years, and has published books on education, sociology, cultural studies, philosophy and criminology.
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For Steve, Mike, Nigel and Kev: my much-loved mates from school – most of whose social, political and philosophical opinions I do not share.

Thanks for nearly 200 years of collective friendship.

And before you all start complaining about having a book like this dedicated to you, you might just try reading it first (or any book, for that matter…).
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