

MAKE YOURSELF CLEAR

A Book and its Cover

There's a paradox at play in the world as we experience it: to make one's self clear, as a teacher, sometimes you have to lead others through a path that appears to be, or is, messy. Sometimes you have to lead people through activities that might confuse an onlooker. And yet, with these intentional activities, you clear out space for the co-construction of meaning. You allow understanding to evolve and sharpen. You make your message clearer, make yourself clearer, in the minds of your students or teammates or audience.

Made clear, through messy means, your message will be implanted in the minds of your audience. More important, your message will belong to your audience.

Take a look at our book's cover. It is shouting "MAKE YOURSELF CLEAR" while celebrating, in its very design, the messiness inherent in that process. We intentionally tried to create some cognitive dissonance with an expressive artifact that celebrates this "messy-to-be-clear" paradox. The path to understanding is not always clear. It must be made so. That takes time, intention, inventiveness; that takes teaching.



Use our book's cover to start a discussion about how clarity often comes from messy pathways. Share an example of a time when, through messy means, you attained a deeper understanding of a process, skill, or message. Then, consider how you might make certain aspects of your work more messy so as to more intentionally build understanding in others.

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