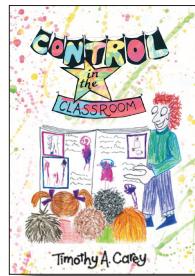


# *Control in the Classroom*

## *An Adventure in Learning and Achievement*

Review from  
front page



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By *Timothy A. Carey*

Tim Carey's new book, *Control in the Classroom*, is a great addition to the educational literature. It introduces educators to the most important and revolutionary new development in psychology in decades, Perceptual Control Theory. And it does this in an easy, accessible style. It has something for everyone in education, from pre-school teachers to secondary teachers, as well as their students. Even college instructors and educational policy makers can find much of value in this slim volume. (Don't be put off by the drawings and light-hearted presentation.)

Carey points out that all of us, not only teachers and students, are structured to try to control our own perceptions of what we want to see. We do this through acting in our environment to bring our perceptions in line with what Carey calls our "just-rights", our desires and goals. In other words, behavior is the control of perceptions.

And, of course, when someone is acting to control his or her perceptions, other people are often also in the environment, trying to control their perceptions in terms of their "just-rights." These other folks efforts at controlling their perceptions means that their actions may help one's efforts to control, may be a disturbance and be resisted, or may not affect one's efforts at control. Carey insightfully explores these features of perceptual control theory for the interactions of students and schools, students and teachers, students and testers, teachers and schools. In the end, his advice is that we educators should "structure the environment such that everyone has the opportunity to control their own experiences with a minimum of interference."

Read this book! You'll be glad you did.

*Hugh G. Petrie, Ph.D.*

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