



Right Kind of Wrong

Supporting Students in Purposeful Exploration

Jay's Failure Resumé

1. Last cut from Midget AAA hockey
2. Got fired - twice!
3. Broke off engagement to fiancée



TABLE DISCUSSION: AN IMPORTANT FAILURE

Share an **important failure** from your life to date:

- What was the failure?
- What did you learn from it/ how did it help you?



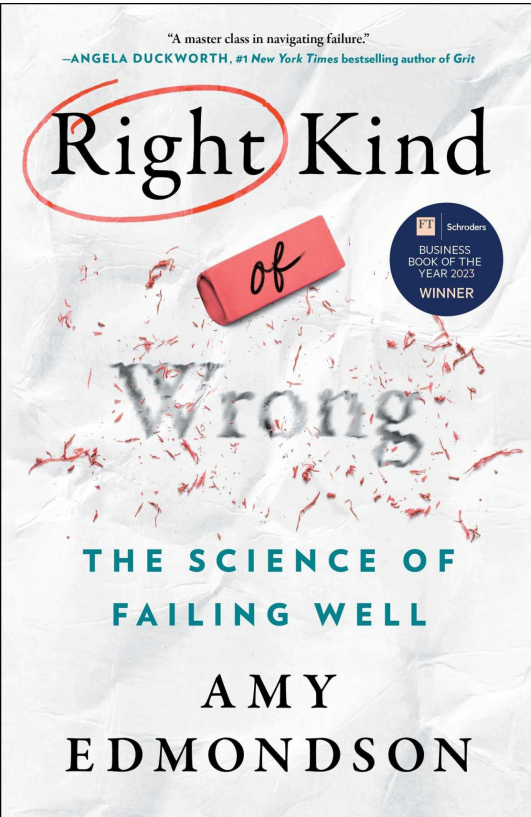
Psychological Safety

Coined by Amy Edmondson, Professor of Leadership at Harvard

“A shared belief that the team is safe for interpersonal risk-taking”

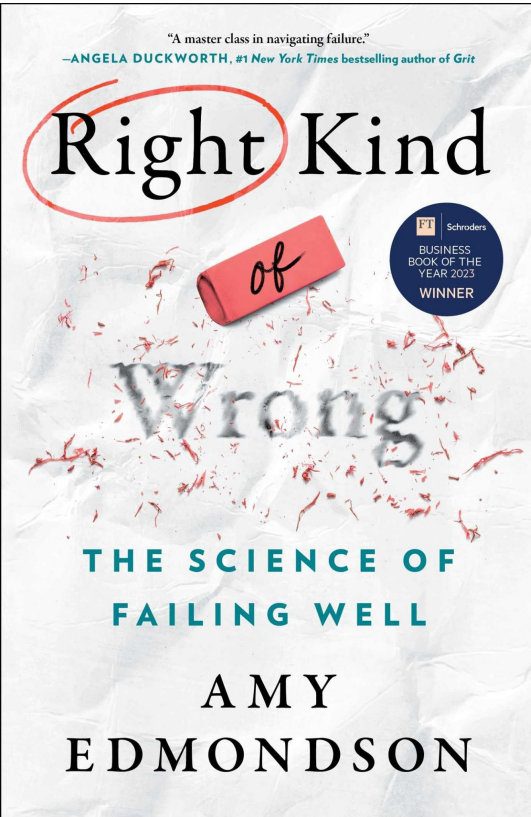
“A sense of confidence that the team will not embarrass, reject or punish someone for speaking up”





Encouraging “Intelligent” Failures

- Three types of failures
 - **Basic** - fundamental principles are neglected, such as skipping steps in a process
 - **Complex** - Caused by external factors that are often unpredictable
 - **Intelligent** - Setbacks are viewed as learning opportunities, and failures are stepping stones to solutions



Encouraging “Intelligent” Failures

- Three types of failures
 - **Basic** - did not mark OUAC deadline in calendar and forgot to apply by deadline
 - **Complex** - left application till last minute, OUAC website crashed day before deadline
 - **Intelligent** - applied 2 weeks before deadline, denied top choice (reach), admitted to safety school. Choice to upgrade or go to safety school.

INTELLIGENT FAILURE

1. The experiment takes place in new territory
2. The initiative presents a credible opportunity to advance toward a desired goal
3. The experiment is “hypothesis-driven,” meaning it’s informed by present knowledge
4. The failure is as small as it can be to produce the desired insights



TABLE DISCUSSION: ENCOURAGING INTELLIGENT FAILURE

What can you do in your school/ classroom to encourage **intelligent failure**?





Promoting Intelligent Failure: A Purposeful Gap Year

DYNAMIC, STUDENT-CENTRED EDUCATION



**Job, life and leadership
skills workshops**



Life and Career Coaching



Mentorship

PURPOSEFUL EXPLORATION



Work



Travel



Community Service



SELF-AWARENESS



CONFIDENCE



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



RESILIENCE



Why DY works

1. Framing: explore vs achieve
2. Low-stakes (no grades)
3. High psychological safety
4. Modelling: vulnerability

GOOD LIFE CONVERSATIONS



**ABENEZER
ABEBE**
Software
Engineer at
Spotify



EMILY BEEKMANS
Photographer and
Founder of Emily
Beeks Creative



NATALIE ROWE
Assistant
Director at the
Canada Revenue
Agency



**BILLY
ANDERSON**
Founder of
The Courage
Crusade



RYAN VAN ASTEN
Director of Sports
Performance at the
Calgary Flames
Hockey Club

DISCOVER YEAR

Good Life

Conversations

Relationships | Work | Adventure | Play



DISCOVER YEAR



**“Life is an experiment,
not a test.”**

Arielle, DY grad - article,
OSCA Today

DISCOVER **YEAR** 

**SIGN UP FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER!**

