# Eight Things Skilled Teachers Think, Say, and Do Eight Things Skilled Teachers Think, Say, and Do An Article by Larry Ferlazzo in the Educational Leadership Magazine ASCD 1703 North Beauregard Street Alexandria, VA 22311-1714 USA Phone: 1-800-933-2723 or 1-703-578-9600 Fax: 1-703-575-5400

I read this article-which I cannot copy but can only buy the magazine, it seems-but it has something worth reading and I urge you to find it online. It addresses something that maybe needs to come ahead of all the classroom management details…which are totally necessary and must be mastered somehow. But maybe before that we need to think about WHAT we think about students…which is what the article by Larry Ferlazzo is about. He advises developing three important mindsets:

1.**Authoritative beats authoritarian.**

**2.Believe that everyone can grow.**

**3.Understand that power isn't a finite pie**

And with those three things in mind, maintain a personal congruence in whatever you do. It is such an important reminder to be aware of what we think-really think-about teaching, and kids, and power.

There is a world of difference (that everyone can spot right away!) between people who are saying the right things but don’t really mean it, and those who mean it. Kids usually know sincere when they see it. So, if the essence to teaching really is listening and explaining…how can you be congruent with that, if your management style relies on commands and control? I haven’t got a clue, when it comes to making people do something. But I know I really don’t believe that you can make people do something they don’t want to do.

It clearly seems that effective classroom management hinges on the distinction between trying to make someone do something, and motivating them to do something. And maybe motivating has to start with our core beliefs-the thinking that motivates us thinking.