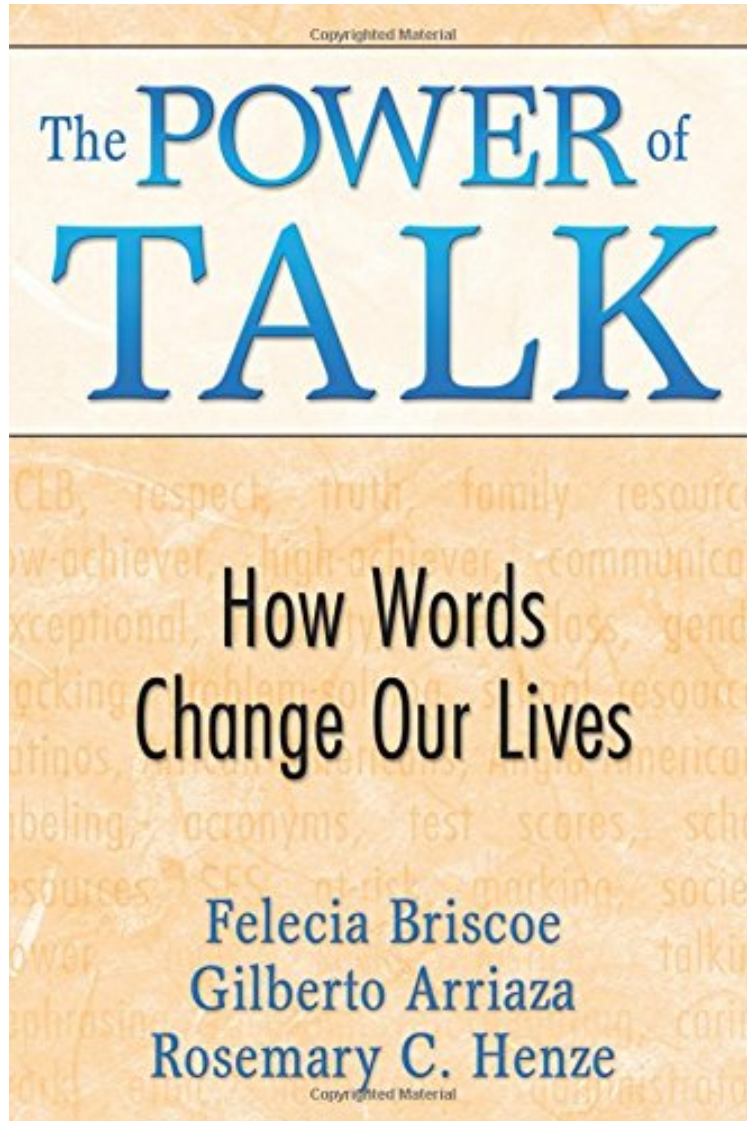


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The Power of Talk: How Words Change Our Lives

Felecia M. Briscoe, Gilberto Arriaza, Rosemary C. Henze
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Collaborative Teacher Leadership book for our graduate level courses in Educational Research at CSU East Bay. This book is excellent, as it goes beyond simply explaining how collaborative inquiry and action research can be a worthwhile method for educators to use to improve their schools. It brings collaborative inquiry to life, by using the voices of teachers who are using this approach to improve their schools and to develop professional learning communities. For example, after our students read "Chapter 4: The Role of Inquiry", they became excited about developing their own collaborative inquiries. Before reading this chapter, many of our graduate students were kind of nervous about the idea of becoming a researcher and they wondered how to begin their own research project in our M.S. in Educational Leadership program. After they read the chapter they enthusiastically posted in our online discussion boards various ideas they were thinking about for their collaborative inquiries and how their research could be used to improve their educational organizations. The book is well organized and easy to read. Again, focusing on Chapter 4, I think the clear explanation of the Cycle of Inquiry, its chart, and the stories using the voices of graduate students who have conducted inquiries, all fit together into a picture that is engaging and clear to those who are new to educational research. To the authors: thanks for creating a great resource for graduate students and professional educators who need to learn about collaborative inquiry and action research. Your book and our companion research methodology text give our graduate students the foundation they need to develop collaborative inquiries which focus on how to bring about greater equity of learning in their schools.

This enlightening book helps educators use everyday language to create more equitable school environments, and offers exercises that strengthen communication and leadership skills.