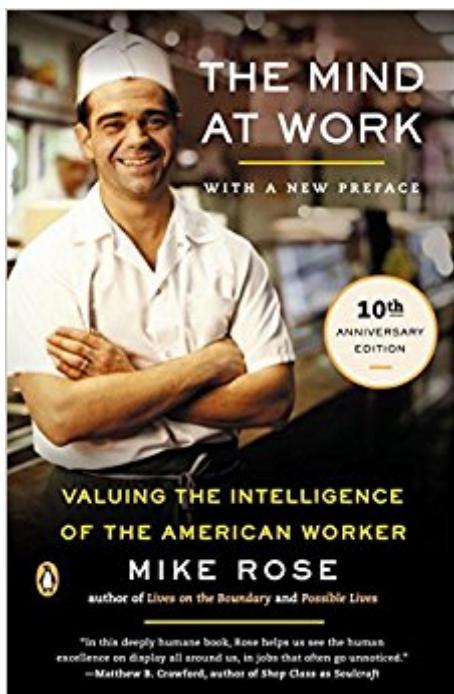


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# The Mind At Work: Valuing The Intelligence Of The American Worker



## Synopsis

Featuring a new preface for the 10th anniversary As did the national bestseller Nickel and Dimed, Mike Rose's revelatory book demolishes the long-held notion that people who work with their hands make up a less intelligent class. He shows us waitresses making lightning-fast calculations, carpenters handling complex spatial mathematics, and hairdressers, plumbers, and electricians with their aesthetic and diagnostic acumen. Rose, an educator who is himself the son of a waitress, explores the intellectual repertory of everyday workers and the terrible social cost of undervaluing the work they do. Deftly combining research, interviews, and personal history, this is one of those rare books that has the capacity both to shape public policy and to illuminate general readers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This groundbreaking study finds that the intelligence, integrated skills and achievements of blue collar and service workers have been consistently undermined and marginalized by cultural stereotyping. Rose (Possible Lives) finds conventional assessment of intelligence tied to social class: to IQ tests that measure formal schooling rather than capacity, and judgments that elevate "mind work" such as teaching or surgery over so-called "body work" represented by hair stylists or plumbers. Rose demonstrates, through research and personal exploration of a variety of workplaces, that cognitive ability, including perception, judgment, memory and knowledge, is employed daily in the work of laborers like welders, carpenters and drivers. He includes an

extraordinarily moving biography of his mother, who used timing, concentration, strategic efficiency and a high degree of social skills in her work as a waitress. He profiles vocational teachers such as Jim Padilla, who motivates and guides his student electricians while passing on the concentration, problem-solving skills and persistence necessary to success. Rose also provides an excellent overview of the academic-vocational divide and argues that its effacement is necessary for a more democratic society. Well written and perceptive, but never dogmatic, Rose's book puts an important and generally poorly covered piece of the U.S.'s sociological puzzle in bold relief. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Through in-depth research, Rose, a member of the faculty of the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies demonstrates that cultural stereotyping has invariably underestimated blue-collar workers' intelligence and accomplishments. Rose quotes a policy analyst: "How do you honor a student's construction worker father while creating the conditions for his child to not be a construction worker?" Combining memoir (his mother was a waitress) with case studies, he also provides an excellent overview of the academic-vocational divide, though at times his overly scholarly descriptions of the work environment reflect this division. Generally fast paced and never dogmatic, however, Rose has certainly drawn an original portrait of America at work. Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In the interest of full disclosure, the author quoted a sentence from my first book's introduction, so of course I'm going to smile when I read *The Mind at Work*. Pirsig's book, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, has a brief chapter about the genius of welding, a glimpse at how to do it with purity and art, without ego or excessive pride. Competence is its own reward. That's the sense I get from this book. The working class contains some real geniuses, who are not scholars in the traditional sense. Even so, they study. Real, real hard. The intelligence of the average American working person is undervalued, because it's unseen. Good. It can continue to flourish in secret, exploited by its owners alone.

This is an inspiring book. Everyone should read this! Enough said. Sadly... is requiring me to write a certain amount before I can submit my review. This book will help you realize the truly complicated lives we all live and the intelligence and beauty in everyone. It poses questions about self and about

different perspectives of others and may not only be good for recognizing the brains and hearts of others but your own worth.

I really respect the important work of people who serve others - hairdressers, restaurant servers, house cleaners. I wanted more from this book. More stories, more insight. More.

This book was totally AWESOME!!! I have even more respect for service workers after reading and learning of the time, patience, education, skill, use of senses and years of hard work necessary to hone a craft. Big UPS to Mike Rose for breaking it down!

Describes complexity of thought in "manual" professions. Rose manages it with skill and elegance. Highly recommended for all readers both expert and new to the area.

The most important book on the dynamics of Vocational Education that I have ever read.

The shipping was on time as described!! The book is also clean and no mark on it. Reasonable price with good item, a nice shopping experience and that is all I can tell.

Great book that everyone should read.

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