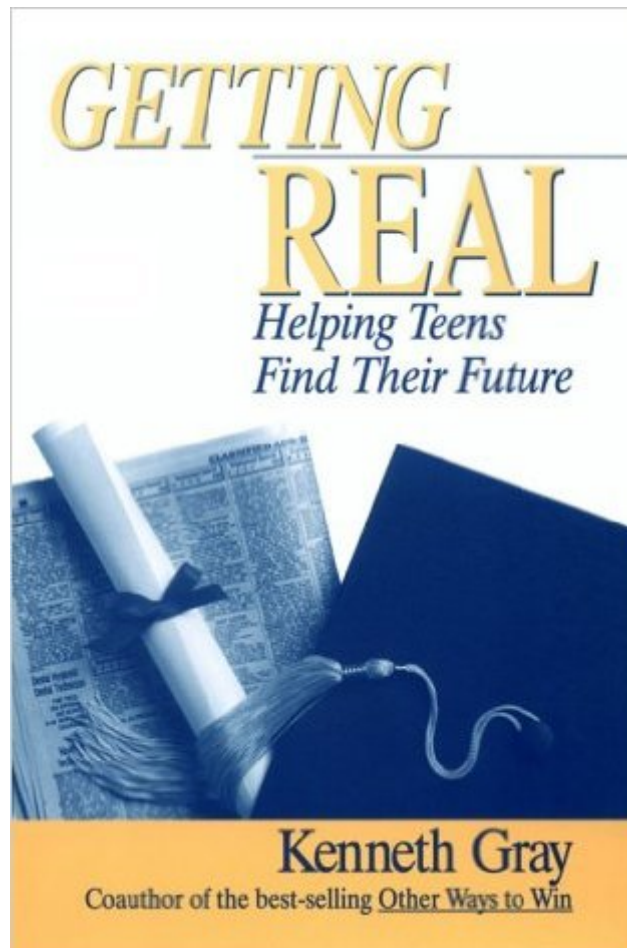


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# Getting Real: Helping Teens Find Their Future



## Synopsis

Getting Real offers realistic advice and career directions to negotiate the disparity between teenage beliefs and aspirations and the real economic and labor market.

## Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #765,764 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Job Markets & Advice](#) #455 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Counseling > Academic Development](#) #3090 in [Books > Business & Money > Job Hunting & Careers > Guides](#)

## Customer Reviews

Ken Gray has dared to challenge what we all have come to believe to be the "right" path for a student to follow after high school. The truth is that times have changed and the path to success no longer follows the same pattern it once did. I highly recommend this book for anyone who works in close contact with high school students. Many students go to college because they feel it's the only option... then drop out because it isn't for them. Ken Gray's book points to another option for helping these students to succeed.

First mechanics: Getting Real is extremely well written. Dr. Gray weaves together statistics, ideas and research into a well organized, easily read 128 pages. Secondly material: Sadly, too many teens are making career plans using information that is at least a decade out of date. Getting Real accurately updates readers at warp speed. Dr. Gray bravely tackles the myth that a university degree is the key to a successful career and that all university degrees lead to high paying jobs. In today's job market, this just isn't so. Dr. Gray shows why success for today's teens will depend as much on creating detailed and achievable post-high school plans as it does on getting good grades. His definitions of career maturity for 10th and 12th grade students are revolutionary. His ideas will

come as a shock to Boomer parents who believe that teens should put off making career decisions as long as possible to keep all options open. Dr. Gray explains in detail why this old advice is bad advice. The global economy has created a job market that is volatile and complex. High school and college teachers have little training about labor market realities or effective career planning techniques. Therefore, successful transition from school to work is an individual responsibility. Getting Real provides teens the guidance they need to create sound strategies for building their first career paths. Carol Christen, author What Color Is Your Parachute for Teens: Discovering Yourself, Defining Your Future

This is an excellent book for counselors and parents of high school students. As a school counselor, I have told my students that the more education they receive, the more money they will make. This is not as simple as we have made it out to be, and I am determined in coming years to be more accurate with my information. Mr. Gray uses the analogy that getting a college degree is like getting a ticket to an overbooked flight. Everyone has a ticket, but not everyone makes it on the plane. And if they don't have specific marketable skills, there won't be a seat for them at all. The statistics and information Mr. Gray provides in this book are very helpful. I dog-eared my book continuously so that I can refer to the book as I work with my students' educational/occupational plans in the future. I took it with me to a counselor's conference to share with other counselors. I was pleasantly surprised to see that Mr. Gray was scheduled to be our keynote speaker, then highly disappointed to learn he couldn't make it because of some health concerns. This book is formatted so that the reader learns first to rethink traditional advice, and is offered supporting evidence to do so. Mr. Gray then follows with specific ways to help students in a school setting and gives suggested programs for students to access and learn work skills. There are also chapters addressing gender roles in work and education as well as students with disabilities and ethnic minorities. Very well written.

Good information and facts to know! I like all the stats he provides and the resources! Worth having around for a High schooler.

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