

Changing the Metaphor: Reimagine what schools are and could be!

Purpose: At a faculty meeting or with students and families, use this table to explore the power of metaphor together.

1. Complete this table with one or two alternative metaphors.
2. Reflect: How do your proposed metaphors portray the future you want to see?

Topic	War Metaphor	Factory Metaphor	Imagine an alternative!	Imagine another alternative!
Schools as...	Battlefields			
Students as...		Consumers, products		
Teachers as...	Soldiers in the trenches / Boots on the ground	Manufacturers, Managers, Experts, "In change"		
Learning / Growth as...	Targets, objectives, intervention	Benchmarks, high-stakes, initiatives		
Making change as...	Choosing battles, strategizing, being effective in combat, pulling rank, toeing the line	Providing accountability, managing resources, efficiency		

Source: Pat LaClair and Lindsey Halman