



George Nagle

Most large organisations talk about innovation and run pilots that never move the operating needle. The cultures that surround them reward certainty, defend incumbent processes, and quietly punish the people who try to think differently. The question for any leadership team is how to make ideation a repeatable discipline inside a workforce that is structurally trained to stay the same.

George Nagle is a creative innovation practitioner and author of the Breakthrough Thinking series who helps organisations turn ideation into a repeatable commercial discipline.

George Nagle's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with George Nagle

- He built his innovation method inside oil and gas water chemistry, one of the most conservative industrial sectors there is, and used it to launch 19 products in 14 months across a portfolio worth more than \$352 million.
- His Breakthrough Thinking series gives leadership teams a named, codified methodology to use after the keynote, not a set of slogans to remember.
- He is a certified FORTH method instructor with black and green belt credentials in Innovation and Growth Systems, Green Belt for Growth, and Value Innovations. The toolset is academically accredited, not invented for the stage.
- He has applied the same approach across more than 24 industries, which makes him a credible voice for boards and executive teams that want innovation discipline transferred into their context, not borrowed from a single sector.

Biography highlights

- Former global executive and strategy lead at a multi-billion-dollar industrial services company, with portfolio responsibility above \$352 million.
- Launched 19 products in 14 months in the oil and gas water chemistry sector.
- Founder of The Ideation Emporium of Creativity, LLC, and author of the Breakthrough Thinking series.
- MS in Biology and MBA in Marketing and Management from Duquesne University; BS in Biology with honours from the University of Pittsburgh.
- Certified online instructor in the FORTH method; black belt and multiple green belt certifications in academically accredited innovation systems.
- Published interviews with Authority Magazine on communication,

AVAILABLE FOR

- Boardroom Advisory
- Coaching
- Consultancy
- Executive Training
- Masterclass
- Panel Participation
- Speaking
- Training and Workshops
- TV and Media
- Voiceover

GEORGE'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Business Strategy & Growth
- Change Management
- Creativity
- Employee Engagement
- Executive Development
- Innovation & Disruption

LANGUAGES: English

attention, and creative habits.

Biography

Innovation in heavy industry is hard for a reason. The cultures are engineered for safety, repeatability, and risk avoidance, which are exactly the traits that make new ideas die quietly in a meeting. George Nagle spent his executive career inside that environment, in oil and gas water chemistry, and built a method to move past it.

As a global executive, he carried a portfolio of more than \$352 million and led the launch of 19 products in 14 months in a sector where most launches take years. That operating record sits behind everything else he does. He went on to found The Ideation Emporium of Creativity, codifying the approach into the Breakthrough Thinking series, including “The Five Letter F Word”, “Miserable At Work? Why? You Don’t Have To Be”, and “How Are Kids Innovating Faster Than You?”.

His credentials are unusual for an innovation speaker. He holds an MS in Biology and an MBA from Duquesne University, a BS in Biology with honours from the University of Pittsburgh, and academically accredited certifications in Innovation and Growth Systems, Green Belt for Growth, and Value Innovations. He is also a certified FORTH method instructor. The toolkit is borrowed, tested, and labelled, not improvised.

What distinguishes him is the breadth of application: more than 24 industries have used the same set of ideation tools, from industrial chemistry to consumer-facing services. For leadership teams that want innovation treated as a managed discipline rather than a creative-culture initiative, that record makes him a practical voice.

Key speaking topics

- Innovation as a managed discipline
- Creative ideation and the FORTH method
- Commercial product launch under operating constraint
- Strategy communication across organisational levels
- Breakthrough Thinking methodology
- Workplace engagement and creative culture

Ideal for

- Chief innovation officers, R&D leaders, and product portfolio executives looking to convert pilots into shipped revenue
- CEOs and executive teams in mature, process-heavy industries trying to install repeatable ideation
- Strategy and transformation leads responsible for cross-functional innovation programmes
- Senior HR and culture leaders pairing innovation capability with employee engagement work

Audience outcomes

- A named, repeatable ideation method audiences can put into a project the next week
- A clearer view of why innovation efforts stall in conservative organisations and which mechanisms unblock them
- Specific tools for separating real strategic priorities from organisational noise

- Practical examples of how a structured innovation cadence produced 19 product launches in 14 months
- Language for connecting creativity, engagement, and commercial outcomes in a single business case

George Nagle's 2026 talks & topics

Achieve True Innovation in 8 Months

A working session on compressing innovation cycles using the Breakthrough Thinking method.

Key takeaways:

- A repeatable cadence for moving from idea to launch inside fixed time windows
 - Specific tools for protecting innovation work from organisational interruption
 - Examples drawn from industrial sector product launches at portfolio scale
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Unleash Creativity to Increase Productivity

A session on building creative output as a function of intentional workplace culture, not personality.

Key takeaways:

- Why creativity in adults is a process problem, not a talent problem
 - Practical mechanisms for protecting ideation time inside dense operating calendars
 - The link between creative discipline and measurable productivity gains
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Communicate Strategy to Engage Your Culture

A talk on translating senior strategy into language that operating teams can act on.

Key takeaways:

- Why strategy decks fail to land below the executive layer
 - A structure for moving the same message across executive, manager, and frontline audiences
 - Practical tests for whether a strategy has actually been understood
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The Five Letter F Word

A keynote on focus as the discipline that makes innovation, strategy, and culture work hold together.

Key takeaways:

- A model for separating priorities from distractions inside leadership work
- Why most productivity systems fail at the team level
- Specific habits that protect leadership focus under operating pressure

George Nagle's Videos



What George Nagle's clients say

George helped change my life AND inspired my daughter, along with her boyfriend, to start a business they had been thinking about.

Mike Netzel

Premier Team Leader, Keller Williams Real Estate

During a session with 100 people, George made us feel like he was right there with each of us individually. The tools and breakthrough thinking he delivered has been incorporated with my team. But further than that, I have taken those tools into my community and taught them to others who are victims. They too have benefited in this change of thought to lead more productive lives.

Dr. Jay Wallace

Founder and CEO, Bio-Qual

George's discussion about communication made me aware that I was coming from a place of 'I know' instead of actively listening. The ability to recognize and step away from my bias has expanded business and personal relationships.

Anne Fleming

Founder and CEO, Women-Drivers

As a person that struggled as a young adult and had to learn by the school of hard-knocks, I had a more skeptical view of how fast meaningful things can change. Using the simplicity of George's messages and tools, we absolutely continue to change our approach to business for the better.

Theresa Morse

Cofounder and COO, ClearAir

The session was a very fun way to be reminded of the simple things that make you successful. George gave me creative useful ways to be reminded of those concepts in my everyday work and personal life.

Stacy Colombo

Delivery Leader, Dewpoint Tech

When I heard the message about when I think everyone has heard a message that people are just starting to hear, it made me think. I took that idea and returned to our plans around changing our message. Thankfully, we heard this because we truly had just started to make headway just before we were ready to give up to try something new. We are bringing this into our strategy now, and people seem excited about where we, as an organization, are going.

Lauren Strutt

Marketing Manager, Eyewear

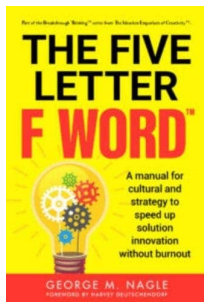
Letting go of being right... so hard to do, but what a difference. Fast food isn't a glamorous business to manage. It has a lot of turnover and a lot of complaining customers. When I started letting go of being right and focusing on what really mattered to the business, our retention rate increased... that was for employees and returning customers.

Toni Maher
Manager, Burger King

Reframing how I view tasks, work, and life has always been separate. I found myself trying my best, putting in as many hours as I could (over 70 a week), and feeling depressed. George showed me how everything touches everything and separation doesn't work on the long term. He gave me tools to help shift perspective and how that can allow for happiness. For me, and the people I talk to about it; this works!

Brandon Seybold
After Market Specialist

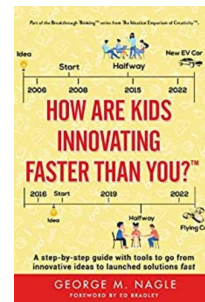
GEORGE'S LATEST BOOKS



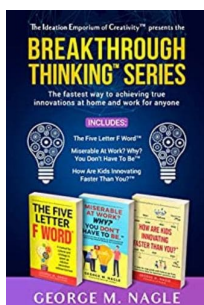
The Five Letter F Word™



Miserable At Work? Why? You Don't Have To Be.™



How Are Kids Innovating Faster Than You?™



The Breakthrough Thinking™ Series