

RTC Faculty Focus

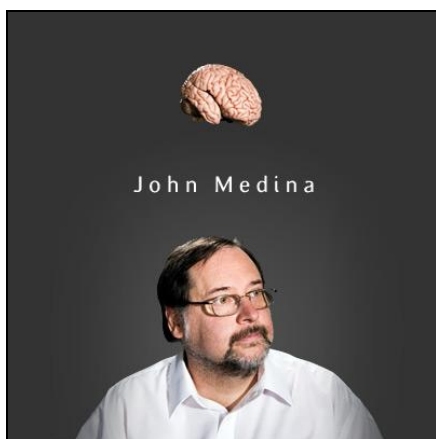
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Renton Technical College

Brain Rules and Active Learning



In his book and DVD *Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School* (RTC Library call number 612.82 MEDINA 2008), molecular biologist, brain research consultant, and author Dr. John Medina outlines twelve rules for using brain research to transform our daily lives. Four of the rules point to the importance of using active learning:

- Rule #1: Exercise (and movement) boosts brain power.
- Rule #4: We don't pay attention to boring things.
- Rule #9: Stimulate more of the senses.
- Rule #12: We are powerful and natural explorers.

For more info about John Medina's *Brain Rules*, go to <http://brainrules.net/>.

Here are some websites that Librarian **Laura Staley** recommends for more information about active learning in the classroom:

- From Illinois State University – “Active Learning” A brief introduction to active learning, and 12 strategies appealing to different learning styles that you can use to encourage active student engagement in the material.
<http://www.cat.ilstu.edu/additional/tips/newActive.php>
- Want more on active learning? This University of Michigan web bibliography “Teaching Strategies: Active and Collaborative Learning” offers research and practical tips on using active learning in the classroom.
<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/tstrategies/tsal.php>
- Interested in trying active learning, but not sure if it will really work? Read “Navigating the Bumpy Road to Student-Centered Instruction” for reassurance from someone who's been there before.
<http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/Papers/Resist.html>

Critical Thinking in MART

Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technology (MART) instructor **Paul Baeder** has written an article on critical thinking that was recently published by the Faculty Association of Community and Technical Colleges in the 2010 issue of their online newsletter *FACTC Focus*. As an added bonus, there's a short video of Paul linked to from within the article which begins on page 16 of the newsletter.

<http://www.factc.org/pdf/2010factcfocus2.pdf>



RTC Library Has Materials about Active Learning

Call the RTC Library at ext. 2331 or visit <http://rtc.edu/library> for more info about these and other materials.



Bean, John C. *Engaging Ideas: the Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom*. Book. Library call number: 808.042 BEAN-J 1996



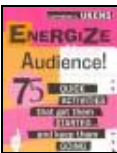
How Change Happens: Breaking the "Teach as You Were Taught" Cycle in Science and Math. VHS video (25 minutes). Library call number: At Desk 507.1273 HOW-CHA 2001h. Models active learning in technical and community college classrooms.



Meyers, Chet and Thomas B. Jones. *Promoting Active Learning: Strategies for the College Classroom*. Book. Library call number: 378.125 MEYERS 1993p



Sutherland, Tracey E. and Charles C. Bonwell, editors. *Using Active Learning in College Classes: a Range of Options for Faculty*. Book. Library call number: 378.125 USING 1996a



Ukens, Lorraine. *Energize Your Audience!: 75 Quick Activities That Get Them Started—and Keep Them Going*. Book. Library call number: 658.3124 UKENS 2000

Learn More about Copyright



Interested in finding out more about copyright? Sign up for the free, 5-hour, online **Copyright for Educators** class offered by the RTC Library's Media Librarian, **Laura Staley**. The sign-up deadline is 01/04/11 and the class will run from 01/10/11 – 02/11/11. Contact Laura at lstaley@rtc.edu or call her at ext. 5679 for more info or if you're interested in enrolling in the class.

We Need Your Contributions and Suggestions

In the next few months, we plan to feature info about **cooperative or collaborative peer learning and testing, grading and assessment**. Contact newsletter editor, Debbie Crumb, with your tips, websites and suggestions. To access past issues, go to the Library's website at <http://rtc.edu/library>, click on **Services and Information**, then **Library Publications**, then **Recent issues published by RTC Library**, and finally on the desired format (**PDF** or **Word**).



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