

Urban Myths

ABOUT LEARNING AND EDUCATION

HOW2

PINPOINT



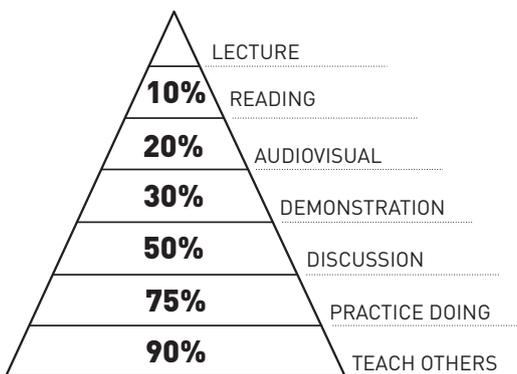
Many teachers do good work, but all too often on the basis of incorrect theories.

Pedro De Bruyckere, Paul Kirschner & Casper Hulshof

Introduction

Pedro De Bruyckere is a teacher trainer who was alarmed when, one day, he was confronted by a student teacher about a diagram he was using. It was the learning pyramid that showed the percentage of material learned when using different methods and media.

You know the one. We've all been presented it at some stage on a training day.



So perturbed was Pedro, that as soon as his lecture ended, he started to research its origin. He eventually landed at businessman Edgar Dale who invented it in 1946. Later on, in the late 1960s, it was adopted by the National Training Laboratories. None of its content is valid. It was a fabrication. And believed ever since.

From then on, Pedro, along with Paul Kirschner and Carl Hulshof, set about researching which topics were myths. The result is this wonderful book.



But the Emperor has nothing on at all!

Hans Christian Anderson, *The Emperor's New Clothes*



No amount of belief makes something a fact.

James Randi, stage magician and scientific skeptic

The Myths

Myths about Learning

- 01: Learning styles
- 02: Learning pyramid
- 03: Learn 70% from informal
- 04: Knowledge is unimportant
- 05: Knowledge doesn't keep
- 06: Discovery learning is best
- 07: Problem learning is best
- 08: Boys are better at Maths
- 09: Multiple intelligences
- 10: Our memory is perfect
- 11: School kills creativity
- 12: 93% of communication is non-verbal

Neuro Myths

- 13: We are good multitaskers
- 14: We only use 10% of our brain
- 15: Left/right brain differences
- 16: Brain Gym works
- 17: Different gender brains
- 18: Learn while asleep
- 19: Classical music helps
- 20: Being under pressure helps

Myths about EdTech.

- 21: ICT, a revolution in learning
- 22: Use the internet because...
- 23: Digital natives
- 24: Internet makes us dumber
- 25: Young people don't read
- 26: Games make you violent
- 27: Computers help the poor

Myths in Educational Policy

- 28: Comparing countries
- 29: Class size doesn't matter
- 30: Larger schools are better
- 31: Single sex is better
- 32: Male teachers better for boys
- 33: Holding back a year is good
- 34: More money is better
- 35: Education never changes.

Selected Myths

Here are a few myths I've chosen as they've been the focus of so much derision after having been central to the educational belief systems of managers, inspectors and teachers.

Learning Styles

Seemingly common sense and obvious, learning styles has been debunked by a wide range of researchers. See leading cognitive scientist, Daniel Willingham, on the subject at www.youtube.com/watch?v=-slv9rz2NTUk

Knowledge is Unimportant

There was a growing belief that with the advent of Google, you no longer needed to have a body of knowledge — it could just be looked up. But you can't look up effectively unless you know something about it first. Knowledge is the base of everything. Even reading comprehension is dependent on it, however great one's powers of inference.

Schools Kill Creativity

Everybody loves to hear Sir Ken Robinson humourously slate schools for being dull prisons for the mind. What is somewhat less well known is that he builds his entire case based on research from the 1960s into brainstorming, exploring the uses of a paper clip. Really. He goes on to equate creativity with genius, ascribing that state to all children. Again false. Plenty of spin; no substance or verity.

REFERENCES

De Bruyckere, P, Kirschner, P. A. & Hulshof, C, D (2015)

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Don't be Fooled Again

Teachers need no longer be fooled by these myths and those who peddle them. Buy this book, read it cover to cover and spread the word. Be professional, be informed, be armed.