

香港資優教育學院  
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

Factsheet

TEACHING AND LEARNING IDEAS IN A NUTSHELL –  
RIGHT BRAIN v LEFT BRAIN

**Definition**

This theory of the structure and functions of the mind suggests that the two different sides of the brain control two different "modes" of thinking. It also suggests that each of us prefers one mode over the other.

**Discussion**

Experimentation has shown that the two different sides, or hemispheres, of the brain are responsible for different manners of thinking. The following table outlines the differences between left-brain and right-brain thinking:

Left Brain	Right Brain
Logical	Random
Sequential	Intuitive
Rational	Holistic
Analytical	Synthesizing
Objective	Subjective
Looks at parts	Looks at wholes

Most individuals have a distinct preference for one of these styles of thinking. Some, however, are more whole-brained and equally adept at both modes. In general, schools tend to favor left-brain modes of thinking, while downplaying the right-brain ones. Left-brain scholastic subjects focus on logical thinking, analysis, and accuracy. Right-brained subjects, on the other hand, focus on aesthetics, feeling, and creativity.

**How Right-Brain vs. Left-Brain Thinking Impacts on Learning**

**Curriculum**

In order to be more "whole-brained" in their orientation, schools need to give equal weight to the arts, creativity, and the skills of imagination and synthesis.

**Teaching**

To foster a more whole-brained scholastic experience, teachers should use instruction techniques that connect with both sides of the brain. They can increase their classroom's right-brain learning activities by incorporating more patterning, metaphors, analogies, role playing, visuals, and movement into their reading, calculation, and analytical activities.

**Assessment**

For a more accurate whole-brained evaluation of student learning, educators must develop new forms of assessment that honor right-brained talents and skills.

**Reading**

Bernice McCarthy. *The 4MAT System: Teaching to Learning Styles with Right/Left Mode Techniques*. Excel Inc., 1987