

# Free research paper on the left brain versus the right brain: how does this impac...

[Sociology](#), [Communication](#)



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## **Introduction**

There have been theories developed to explain how the brain functions. Hemispheric dominance has for a long time been considered a myth. The scientific characteristics normally used to describe the functions of the sides of the brain are useful in consideration of learning and learning styles (Mark, 2013). Left and right sides of the brain have been scientifically proven to process information differently, and this affects learning. The problem comes from the fact that each human being is unique. Everyone processes information in their own way. It is necessary to learn which side of the brain one is apt to use in order to make learning efficient and in less effortless.

## **Different Learning Styles**

There are a myriad of learning styles. Verbal, visual and physical are considered some of the most effective ways. Synonymous to their names, most of these forms of learning occur as they are named (Mark, 2013). The

only difference is the type of activity involved in learning. Visual learning requires a lot of stimulation for learning to occur. Here, pictures, photographs and other forms of visual stimulation are used. In verbal learning, words are utilised. The learner is forced to repeat out words aloud. Since words are easily forgotten, writing is added as a way of enhancing learning and eradicating forgetfulness. Physical learning involves the use of senses like touch as a way of inputting knowledge. All these forms of learning are enhanced by rehearsal and repetition.

Learning which side of the brain utilises, which form of learning style will enable one to expand on the strategies used in passing and imparting knowledge. Some parts of the brain work better than others depending on the individual. This can be important when learning a new concept. It will be easier to choose the best learning style. Knowledge on learning styles is useful in enabling one to respond properly to the material being presented. It is easier to process the material in the brain even if it is not presented in a preferable manner. This is only possible when one has knowledge in the various learning skills. This is probably why even material presented in the form of writing can be synthesized and stored for a long time (Burns, 2011).

## **Left Side Thinking**

According to George & Sally (2001), the left side of the brain processes information in a linear way. The information is broken from parts into one whole. Information is pieced up, then lined and arranged in a logical manner (George, 2001). This information is then processed before any conclusion is made. A person who utilises the left side of the brain processes problems in

that manner. A problem is divided into parts in the process of solving it. For the problem to be solved successfully, one has to follow a certain procedure. Due to this fact, students who utilise the left side of their brain prefer to learn independently. In this case, learning should be conducted individually. This part of the brain functions properly at processing information that is easily broken into parts. For example; symbols such as those found in mathematics or steps to be followed in conducting an experiment (Toga & Thompson, 2003). It is still not clear which part of the brain is most active during learning in this case.

The personality of people who utilise the left side of their brain can be described as open and sort of extroverts. They usually calculate their moves and do not mince their words. They usually know what they want and how to achieve it. They easily adjust to new surroundings and their opinions are always based on reality. When it comes to learning, such people are calm, and they can easily sit through a long lecture. They can also read a whole chapter of a book without fidgeting. Apparently, such people do not require rereading of a book during or before an exam. They store information for a longer period of time in the short memory centre.

## **Right Side Thinking**

The right brain processes information in groups. This is done from one whole to parts, holistically. Instead of dealing with a problem as a problem, it is dealt with from the prospect of an answer. Instead of a problem being broken down into parts, the big picture is looked at first. Problems are solved wholesomely (Toga & Thompson, 2003). Such a person is only capable of

solving a problem only after being provided with an answer. In most cases, such people are useful when solving problems such as filling in blanks or giving answers to already read stories.

It is said that quite a number of people are right sided when it comes to the utilisation of the brain (Edwards, 1999). The same author also estimates that the right side of the brain is slightly larger. Most of the people in the world utilise this side of the brain largely due to the myriad of functions it plays in the body. Physical learning is quite effective in these instances. This is because such individuals are capable of seeing the end result.

People who use the right side of the brain are usually quite active (Edwards, 1999; Burns, 2011). They have a low attention span and drift away very quickly. Unless given a summary, they lose interest in a class or a lecture. It is that aspect of knowing the eventuality that keeps them going. Prior reading proves to be quite necessary in people with such a brain. Generally, it is almost impossible for a person who utilises the right side of the brain to prioritise tasks. They also prefer to work in groups and these are a symbol of strength to them.

## **Comparison**

There have been debates on which side is the best one when it comes to learning. It is necessary to realise that both sides have their advantages. While the left side of the brain is effective in visual learning, the right side is effective in physical learning. The latter is incapable of paying attention to detail while the ones who utilise the left side of the brain can pay attention for a long time. Needless to say, each of the brain sides has proven to be

useful in its own way. Therefore, it would be necessary to engage both sides of the brain for effective learning.

## **Conclusion**

Concisely, both sides of the brain have quite an impact in learning.

Therefore, it is up to the teacher to find a way of ensuring that both sides are engaged. This is what will create the said conducive environment for learning. It is also necessary for teachers to encourage group work as a way of ensuring that both left and right side minded people are catered for.

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