

Critique 3

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Wolfe, P. (2003). Brain research and education: Fad or foundation? *Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*, 1(1), p.4 – 8.

### Summary

Many innovations and changes have been held for the past few years. The newest “break through” technique in neuroscience or brain study has generated a great amount of interest. People seem have plenty of curiosity in understanding the functions of human’s brain. Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Gall have proposed their understanding in human brain through scientific and philosophic ways.

Teachers are the main population that devote themselves in the studying of students’ brain functions. The current researchers and their findings may guide us to either a scientific fad or a scientifically-based theory of teaching and learning.

The author suggested that what we should do in this moment is carefully and analytically sort through the data and determine which studies actually have classroom applications and which ones do not.

The author introduced an accepted list of what we have learned about the brain:

1. Experience shapes the brain.
2. Memory is not stored in a single location in the brain.
3. Memory is not static.
4. Memory is not unitary.
5. Emotion is a catalyst in the learning process.

The author also provided some suggestions that we should follow:

1. Become literate in the general structure and function of the brain.
2. Learn how to determine whether a study is valid or not.
3. Be caution when making applications of research findings to the classroom.
4. Marry the findings from neuroscience with other fields.
5. Too often at conferences scientists speak and educators take notes.
6. Begin to incorporate in our classrooms and schools what we have learned about the brain.

### **Implications for Impact on Adult Education**

Neuroscience researches provide us plenty of information in the understanding of human brain. Some of these findings can be proper applications and used in adult classrooms. But the educators should be able to distinguish the difference between the effectiveness among these suggestions. Without the test in classroom, the results of using the findings may be unpredictable.

### **Personal Opinion**

This article reminds us that although tons of data are available, the final decisions are held in users' hands. Different study conducted by different professionals may create total contradictory results. Findings of our researches and dissertations may create both positive and negative effects for people. While quoting or adopting others' research findings, it is important to verify the meanings and effectiveness of the data been used.