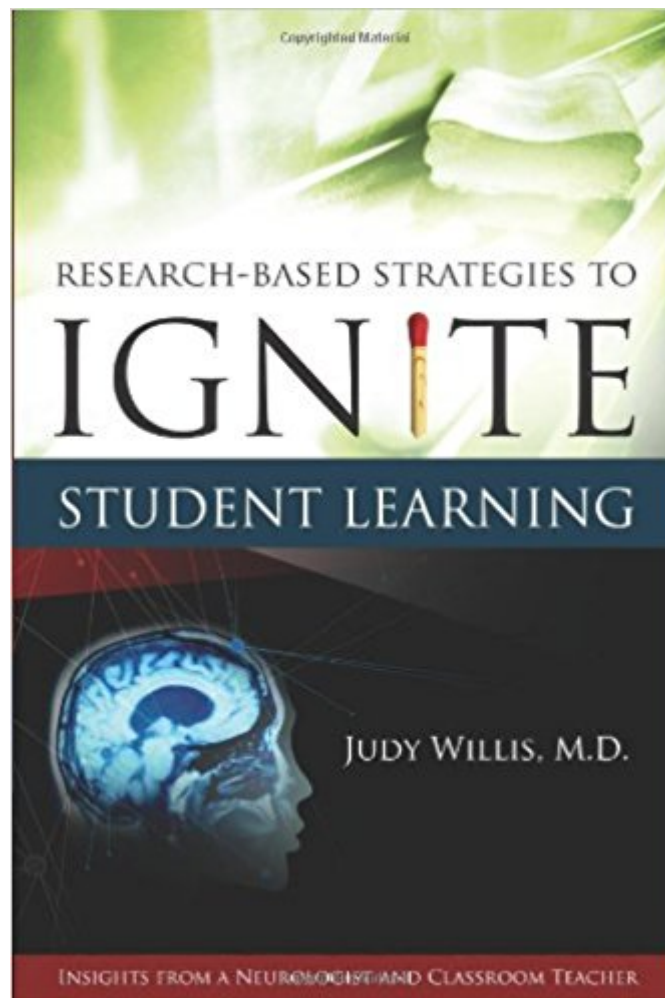


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# Research-Based Strategies To Ignite Student Learning: Insights From A Neurologist And Classroom Teacher



## Synopsis

In this book, written by an author who is both a neurologist and a classroom teacher, Judy Willis combs through brain research and pulls out the information that is most valid and relevant to classroom teaching. Find out how to enhance your students' memory and test-taking abilities. And discover ways to captivate and hold students' attention and encourage their participation and progress.

## Book Information

Paperback: 125 pages

Publisher: Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development (August 3, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416603700

ISBN-13: 978-1416603702

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 30 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #119,622 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Basic Sciences > Neuroscience](#) #209 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Research](#) #222 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Neurology > Neuroscience](#)

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Willis is a unique blend of common sense, humor and brains, a rarity being both a "brain" doctor, and a classroom teacher. With this book I have my own neurologist/teacher in my classroom.

--Surprise Your Brain: Buy this book! J.BrownI thought I would use the book as a reference, but when I started reading I read it cover to cover. It is a book that you read, then are able to use the strategies presented immediately. --Jules Zimmer, Dean Emeritus, U of CA, Grad Sch EducationThis book is really making me rethink the way I teach. The book gives you an awareness of how the brain works and how the brain remembers. I highly recommend it. --Midwest Book ReviewDr. Willis presents very practical yet eye-opening details on how to engage students before you have even begun your lesson. Dr Willis has changed my teaching forever. --You knew that it was true, but this book explains why, Sean KellyThis book helped me find the missing pieces of the puzzle. I don't usually read my mom's books but I read this one. It is interesting and fun to read. --Hope is on every page - A Kid's Review

Invaluable supplement to enhancing maximum effectiveness  
Midwest Book Review  
Board-certified neurologist and middle school teacher Judy Willis, M.D. presents *Research-Based Strategies to Ignite Student Learning*, a guide for K-12 educators that combines the latest findings of learning-centered brain research with practical experience in the classroom. The result is a resource for helping students achieve their full academic potential that covers memory, learning, and test-taking success; strategies to corner student attention; how to mitigate the negative effects and draw benefits from the positive effects of stress and emotion in learning; and much more. A glossary, bibliography for further reading, and index round out this invaluable supplement to enhancing one's grade school curriculum for maximum effectiveness.

Treasure-packed remarkable resource  
Dr. Lawrence May

Dr. Judy Willis has written an excellent book for helping teachers understand how to teach in ways that engage students' brains and lead to deeper learning. The short text is easy to understand, yet filled with valuable information for teachers. Teachers must constantly make decisions about which teaching method to use at any given point. Complicating the decision-making, however, is the plethora of methods from which teachers may choose, and the fact that proponents of so many different methods claim to have scientific research to support their ideas. Nevertheless, the task of choosing might be a little easier after reading Willis's book. While many texts focus on advising teachers how to implement a specific teaching strategy, Willis focuses on helping teachers understand how the human brain works and how teachers can use that knowledge to choose strategies that tap into the brain's normal processes. In just over 100 pages, Willis deals with a wide range of educational issues. For example, she describes how the brain stores information and develops networking connections between related data. This, she writes, can help teachers understand why students sometimes have difficulty learning vocabulary. Unless a student is shown the relationships between existing knowledge and the new vocabulary, the student's brain stores the new information in isolation. Storing information in isolation then makes it more difficult for the brain to retrieve the information later. Conversely, if the student understands the connections between previous knowledge and new knowledge, the brain literally networks the information, which makes it easier for the brain to retrieve the information in the future. Willis describes how teachers can use graphic organizers, visualization, and role-play to help students make those cognitive connections. An entire chapter is dedicated to understand how stress affects the brain and how schools and families can work together to reduce stress on students and help students handle the stress they do feel. Another chapter is dedicated to discussing many good assessment techniques. In this context, rather than merely describing how to write rubrics, Willis

describes how rubrics help students' brains develop. Of course, in describing so many neurological functions, it is necessary for Willis to use intimidating terms, such as dendrites, occipital lobes, and prefrontal cortex. Willis does a remarkable job, however, explaining such terms. And in case the reader forgets what a term means mid-book, the book includes a handy glossary. I found *Research-Based Strategies to Ignite Student Learning* to be a surprisingly understandable, yet treasure-packed resource. And its readability and short length mean one can easily read it over a weekend. Best of all, the book could meet the needs of a wide audience. Willis has explained her ideas well enough that preservice teachers could easily understand the material; in fact, I can see this book becoming popular in teacher education programs. At the same time, the book offers such a unique perspective and valuable information that even veteran teachers are likely to benefit from investing their time in reading it.

The information here is invaluable. Dr. Willis shares deep insight, understanding, and information. If you only read one educational book this year, make it this one! The "gray matter" sections give background info on brain mechanics. Very helpful. However, I found it useful to go back after the first reading, and read the book again without the gray matter sections. This gives the teacher explicit tips on how to get newly learned information into students' long term memory. What could be better? This book is a real gem.

Very readable and useful little book by a classroom teacher who has also had a career in neurology. Cognitive Science is a particular interest of mine. I am always interested in brain-based theories of how to engage students in the classroom learning experience. Perhaps because this volume is already six years old, I didn't find any information that was new to me, but I enjoyed reviewing the concepts put forth here. This is a good introductory book. It is practical, straight-forward and easy to understand. Kim Burdick Stanton, DE

The combination of work experience with neuroscience and education has provided Judy Willis with fantastic insights into the very challenging art of teaching. Over the last several years, there have been amazing advances in the knowledge of how the brain functions and how we all learn. Through Judy Willis's book, *"Ignite Student Learning"*, we are now presented with multiple concepts and techniques for how we, as teachers and administrators, can utilize this knowledge to enhance our instruction so that all students can become intrinsically motivated and find true joy in learning.

Great ideas so far! I can't wait to implement them in my class!

Excellent book, informative and very engaging. I read it on about 2 days.

This is an excellent book for all educators to read! We are lucky Dr. Willis has joined our profession, and I look forward to the realities of brain research to change our educational system for the better!

If you teach, you need to read this book. It showed just how learning is achieved. Thanks. Great book. I would not be without it.

I chose this book due to the fact that an actual practicing neurologist ,and an actual practicing teacher, wrote it about education. Most of the practises Dr. Willis describes I actually implement. It was very nice to read why, scientifically, these strategies work!

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