

The Dominance Factor

Carla Hannaford - Great Ocean Publishers (1997)

This book introduces the idea of Dominance Profiles. A profile being a factor that shapes the way we think and act - the author would say the key factor.

This profile, obtained through a series of muscle-check assessments, can supply information about how we access, assimilate and process sensory information and from there how we respond to and express new learning.

The profile is a tool that provides important clues about learning preferences and can point to possible difficulties in particular areas of the curriculum.

The book falls into four sections.

Section 1

This section provides the theoretical background of the differences between Logic and Gestalt dominance.

Section 2

This part introduces the ranges of assessment techniques which determine individual dominance profiles.

Section 3

Identifies the profiles - 32 of them.

Each profile outlines:

- the dominance - Logic or Gestalt
- particular strengths
- areas of challenge
- how best to support the learner

Section 4

The final section draws all the ideas together and shows how the profiles can be integrated into teaching practice.

This is a very readable book and the use of mini summaries that show the differences between Logic and Gestalt dominance is excellent.

The different profiles and accompanying tips for teaching are useful, as is the final summary of strategies. (Appendix B)

However - the book offers nothing new and all of the recommended strategies are used in current practice. (eg Brain gym, Mind-Mapping, Brainstorming...).

To help determine dominance - a character called 'domiknow' is introduced (as a visual support). Personally I found this very confusing and complicated. As for the profiles - all 32 of them - a bit overwhelming and not a lot of difference between them, although they do present information in a neat handy way.

The book does offer good advice and takes a holistic approach to learning.

As with other books that offer good advice and take a holistic approach to learning it would be useful to work through - IF YOU HAD THE TIME.

It is a good resource - its conciseness makes it readable and user friendly - but how useful would depend on the time you have to implement the ideas.