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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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Quick Training Tips: positive contact and the ability to keep an audience's attention is paramount in praiseworthy training.

My favorite chapter by far is “Dealing With ‘Difficult’ Students: How To Have ‘Win-Win’ Interactions.” Weiss-Morris begins with several possible scenarios, one of which hit all-too-close to home for me: “This student lets you know that team exercises and learning games are a waste of time—and it just so happens that you’ve got several planned for the session.” Frequently, individuals do not attend classes or training sessions on a volunteer basis. For example, library education sessions are rarely elective; furthermore, students’ learning curves vary dramatically. No doubt, we try our damnedest to engage our co-eds and allow them to feel as though they have learned valuable information and skills. But it doesn’t always work, and every so often (at best) we have pupils who put up a roadblock to learning. Weiss-Morris has gathered tips from her website which illustrate ways to capture student involvement. Advice from others in the field is invaluable.

Every imaginable topic concerning computer training is covered. Weiss-Morris does not only address classroom settings: “How To Conduct a Win-Win Training Session With a High-Powered Executive” demystifies one-on-one tutoring. Tips for teaching basic skills classes are followed by those for instruction on advanced computer concepts. Though the chapter dealing with teaching Internet skills focuses on beginner audiences, several tips can be applied to more advanced learners. Over eighteen pages focus on information about online instruction success, and much of the content comes from OnlineLearning.net’s Director of Online Curriculum and Instructor Development, Susan Ko.

One could argue that purchasing Quick Training Tips isn’t necessary—most of the information contained in its pages is available for free on the Internet. The added value of the book is its categorical nature and added articles and interviews. Sure, much of the information is available on Weiss-Morris’ Website, but it’s scattered. I highly recommend this book for your public library patrons and for personnel who carry out any sort of computer training. I also recommend sending it to the bindery for a hardcover.

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