Will right-brainers be the future leaders of orthodontics?

By Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MEd, EdD, PhD, Editor in Chief

The past few years have been challenging times for everyone, and we are all ready for a fresh start now. It is time for looking outside of the box and opening up to new ideas for our growth, the growth of our practices and the growth of our specialty’s leadership.

The problems facing orthodontic education are mounting, and we seem to be at a turning point. The world is increasingly interconnected, employment is changing rapidly, the economic upheaval rolls on, and again we must ask ourselves: (a) Have we as educators kept up with this evolution of global consciousness? (b) Have we considered the possibility that the status quo no longer meets the challenges of today’s world? (c) If necessary, are we prepared to transform an entire system of pedagogy and administrative infrastructures?

Our left-brain is linear, logical and by-the-numbers; the right side is artistic, creative and empathetic. Daniel Pink (2005) stated that right-brain thinkers are better wired for 21st-century success, and anyone can tap into the right-brain process and be inspired to extend beyond his or her preferences and partialities by seeking to develop new concepts to their catalog of reactions. Our brains are organized to go beyond constrained preferences and although we are all creatures of habit, with a little effort our leaders can alter their personal preferences and widen their intellectual behavior, this implies looking at right-brain and left-brain skills.

Researchers have explored theories about the two hemispheres of the brain and the ways that they differ in function and control of the body. People who are right-brain dominant and those who are left-brain dominant process information and respond in different ways.

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right-brain thinking. She chronicled the cerebrovascular accident (CVA) that she suffered from in her book “My Stroke of Insight.” Taylor explained her stroke of genius, suggesting that ultimately it is about following your intrinsic motivation by asking yourself: (a) What are you here to do? (b) What are you uniquely good at? (c) How can you be a better leader?

According to Decosterd (2008), some leaders are intuitive, some are compelling and some are great at visualizing a situation through from the start to the finish. Some leaders are better at driving results, while others are better at leading people. Leaders typically are strong in purpose, capability and conviction. Some leaders have developed methods and tactics that work for them in certain situations while constricting their impact in others.

However, when leaders are challenged, many tend to do more of what they are comfortable doing, rather than looking for better ways of solving a problem. I believe that as a rule, our leaders should be challenged to extend beyond his or her preferences and partialities by seeking to develop new concepts to their catalog of reactions.

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Ultimately personality is shaped by brain type. Dominant brain types have a significant affect on skills, habits, emotion and behavior.

By understanding dominant brain type, leaders may be able to adjust their work habits, perhaps alter their schedules and workloads to better suit their personality type. Some leaders would be well advised to examine themselves with regard to whether they are right brain or left brain dominant, and I urge our leaders to take a deeper, inward look at themselves…they may find a greater arsenal of services for interaction and communication, they may ultimately become better leaders.

References


Corrections

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