

*“Rebels With Applause:
Brain Compatible Approaches For Motivating Reluctant Learners”*

The following is a composite evaluation from a two-hour regular session I did for about two-hundred people at the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA in March, 2003 (15 evaluations were distributed and returned).

	Strongly disagree 1	2	3	Strongly Agree 4
The total session was of high quality.	--	--	--	15
The session content will be useful to me.	--	--	--	15
The speaker’s overall effectiveness was high.	--	--	--	15
The content of the speaker’s presentation was useful.	--	--	--	15
The speaker was organized and prepared.	--	--	--	15

Comments (these are complete and unedited)

- ◆ Filled with useful tips. Best presentation I’ve been to in the 6 conferences I’ve attended.
- ◆ This workshop was the highlight of the conference. Speaker was incredibly knowledgeable and engaging. Everything useful and stimulating.
- ◆ This was a skillful compaction of a much longer presentation – There is no doubt that Rick is missed by his former students – He is a true TEACHER!
- ◆ Rick is a talented presenter with much to offer.
- ◆ I enjoyed it – the pace was a bit of a challenge at times – but it was a great presentation.
- ◆ Using humor he transmitted content – so many things to bring back and use immediately.
- ◆ Absolutely useful items
- ◆ Great! I wanted more
- ◆ Excellent!! 😊 I want Rick to come to my school to work with my staff!
- ◆ Excellent presentation of strategies that will be useful
- ◆ FANTASTIC!
- ◆ Created and modeled an unusually high interactive environment for learning.
- ◆ Outstanding, invigorating, useful, entertaining
- ◆ Fabulous
- ◆ Thanks for the music and reminders of past good strategies
- ◆ Lots of ideas to take back – Thanks! You’re a lifesaver!
- ◆ Enthusiasm is infectious – great!
- ◆ Fantastic
- ◆ He is coming to our state!! Yeah!!
- ◆ I’m motivated to motivate reluctant learners!
- ◆ I have ideas that I can use in my H.S. math classroom.
- ◆ Great!
- ◆ I feel better about what I am doing, but see that I need to improve.
- ◆ THE ABSOLUTE BEST! High fives!

*Rebels With Applause: Brain Compatible Approaches
For Motivating Reluctant Learners*

National Staff Development Council (NSDC) National Conference in December, 2002 in Boston, Massachusetts.

	5	4	3	2	1	Average
Content	20	--	--	--	--	5.0
Process	20	--	--	--	--	5.0
Context	20	--	--	--	--	5.0

	Extremely (3)	Somewhat (2)	Not at all (1)	Average
How useful did you find this learning experience?	19	1	--	2.95
How well did the session match the Guide description?	19	--	--	3.0
How well the content and materials will help you with your work?	18	2	--	2.9

Comments (all of them):

- ◆ Rick's presentation was incredible. Thank you.
- ◆ Excellent workshop and presenter! ☺
- ◆ Great presenter – kept me motivated after a big lunch!
- ◆ Kept energy up, and modeled what he taught!
- ◆ Excellent session – R. Smith shared practical, common sense strategies framed with the background knowledge to support the strategy.
- ◆ Great ideas for sharing with my teachers – particularly new teachers – who are struggling with reluctant learners.
- ◆ Music set the tone for a lively session – Humor helped make the concepts “stick” – a very useful session! Thanks!
- ◆ Terrific!!
- ◆ Definitely will use with our staff for prof. development days (replicating his style of delivery). Though early in the conference, I can already tell his presentation(s) will be my favorite(s)!
- ◆ Very enjoyable as well as beneficial.
- ◆ Very interesting and engaging and useful.
- ◆ No recommendations – everything was perfect – the time flew by.

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This evaluation is from a full-day keynote at the Montana State Elementary Principals Conference called “**Rebels With Applause: Brain Compatible Approaches For Motivating Reluctant Learners**” on February 6, 2003. There were approximately 150 administrators in attendance (21 evaluations were distributed).

	1	2	3	4	Mean Average Score
The workshop provided me with helpful ideas and strategies	--	--	--	21	4.00
The handouts were valuable	--	--	1	20	3.95
The workshop used a variety of interactive approaches	--	--	1	20	3.95
I would recommend this workshop to other teachers	--	--	--	21	4.00

Comments (all of them):

- ◆ Please come to our district – our teachers need you! I’ve been to 28 years of workshops – yours was the most fun!
- ◆ Enjoyed the training! Time went by really fast! Lots of “good stuff” I can share with my staff!
- ◆ Good fun and useful info
- ◆ Super! Very useful!
- ◆ This was a full day of practical, useable information and strategies. Thank you!
- ◆ This was an excellent workshop. I would love to have all of my staff get to participate in this type of class. Rick Smith had information for EVERYONE to take home and implement tomorrow (but they’d want to do it today!) He provides teachers the opportunity for fun, self-reflection, and provides lots of ways for them to expand professionally.
- ◆ This is what my brain likes! ☺ Teachers and students will like them too. Thank you
- for a positive day that contained excellent ideas and strategies!
- ◆ Very good and excellent information and strategies.
- ◆ You provided great examples of putting fun in education and caring. Good job!
- ◆ AWESOME, PRACTICAL, RELEVANT Strategies! Thanks!
- ◆ Wonderful
- ◆ Interaction was effective!
- ◆ Well experienced, articulate, speaker. A good model of teaching and managing practices.
- ◆ Wonderfully motivating.
- ◆ Fabulous.
- ◆ This was very rejuvenating, so much so I would like a classroom to implement these strategies.
- ◆ Thank you for modeling the message as well as giving the message!
- ◆ Great!

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Conference
 Program Evaluation April 7, 2002 San Antonio, Texas

	Outstanding	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Program Content					
Organization of Material	33	4			
Professional Level of Program	36	1			
Utilization of Audio/Visual Aids	35	2			
Usefulness of Ideas, Skills and Techniques	36	1			
Quality of Program Content	36	1			
Quality of Handouts	32	4			
Speaker Rating					
Expertise of Topic	35	2			
Ability to Stay Focused on the Topic	36	1			
Effective Response to Questions	35	0			
Ability to Hold your interest	36	1			
Overall Speaker Rating	36	1			

Program Recommendations

Would you recommend this topic be repeated for the 2003 convention? 37 Yes 0 No

Would you recommend this speaker? 37 Yes 0 No

Comments (all of them):

- Perhaps one of the best sessions I've attended at any conference!
- Unbelievable! Thanks so much.
- Extremely useful and transferable stuff
- Every classroom teacher K-12 should learn about Rick's strategies for truly learning.
- Rick made everyone feel welcome, he kept everything going and made this topic fun to learn. Never a dull minute!! Great job. Please tie in or add kids with ADD/ADHD.
- Outstanding!
- Rick has some wonderful ideas and thoughts to enable the participants to grasp the knowledge. His enthusiasm is wonderful!
- His presentation mode and references as to how to take back to our buildings was great
- Fabulous! Super!
- Schedule a larger room.
- Excellent presentation! Rick Smith is an exceptional presenter!
- Your approach is great! Keep up the good work- Thank you!
- Lots of fun – engaging the whole time. Giving me lots of ideas to share ☺ I'm so glad I attended. Thank you.

This is an evaluation from a 90 minute session I did on the final day of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) National Conference in Atlanta in March, 2002.

	5	Good 4	quate	Poor	Very Poor
Speaker demonstrated strong knowledge of the subject	19		--	--	--
Did program content match your expectations	17		1	--	--
	18		--	--	--
prepared	19		--	--	--
		3	--	--	--
The pacing of activities in the session was	18	1	--	--	--
The quality of handouts/materials was	14	5	--	--	--
My overall rating of the presenter is	19	--	--	--	--
My o	18	1	--	--	--

Comments on the session (these are complete and unedited)

- This was the best presentation I've seen in over 30 years in education. 5 is not enough so I gave him 5+++.
- Rick – You are a fabulous Master teacher- My staff & our students will greatly benefit. ☺
- Great use of music. Difficult to be a presenter during final slot. Everyone is either tired or gone. You were awesome! Workshops need your caliber! You're fabulous!
- Active Involvement, good modeling, practical ideas, Excellent
- Excellent session, Great ideas to motivate All our students. Thanks for sharing
- Excellent, Best one of the Conference Intelligent, funny – Like George Carlin
- Good stuff – This will help w/observations and faculty meetings.
- Activities were excellent Provided useful information to use with staff
- Excellent – Would like to see him again. He gave us “Stuff we Need”
- Great presentation! Presenter has observed lots of teachers and gathered good information in addition to outlining strategies that can work!
- The Best Hands on & Take Home of the Convention. Thank you.
- Very interesting great modeling “Things I can use”
- I found this seminar very motivating! Having so many concrete ideas to take home is a joy! Thank you!
- Highly pragmatic – great model & outstanding teacher. Best energy of any presentation. I leave motivated and ready to change my world!