

## What the Best College Teachers Do

*Ken Bain*

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**Ken Bain : What the Best College Teachers Do** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What the Best College Teachers Do:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. InsightfulBy Pastors Resource Training CenterKen Bain has shared tremendous insights and experiences on what constitutes an effective teacher. From knowing and researching their subjects, to loving and respecting their students, the most effective teachers seek to create a learning environment for holistic development of their students. Because they understand that learning is a developmental process, they patiently walk the journey with their students challenging and encouraging them to succeed in their areas of study. The

book offers several helpful ideas of improving our teachings from which anyone involved in teaching can benefit.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for all educatorsBy carlos batresThis book was simply amazing and it really would serve best for new educators like myself. As others have commented, this isn't a step by step book, which Bain literally states in the book, but it is very useful in one specific way. It asks the questions and discusses topics and aspects about teaching that get you to self reflect and it leaves the decision up to you, as an educator, as to what direction you want to take your teaching in and how much or how little of what is discussed in the book you want to take with you. That is the most valuable thing that this book provides because it does not guilt you or judge you into thinking what is the good or bad way to teach. It simply tells what the results are, based on his research, and you decide how you palatalize it. You either like the taste of it or you do not and most of all, since we all have different personalities that fit different teaching approaches, we can fit what Bain says to our own teaching style and philosophy. I agreed with some things and disagreed with others but overall, I truly appreciated the mental challenge that this book introduces by challenging me to think about my way of thinking about students. The rest is truly up to me. Most importantly, he gave me something that I did not get in grad school, a sense of direction about my teaching.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The book gave great guidance on effective ways to deliver a subject matter ...By Myra McGillI'm an accounting instructor. The book gave great guidance on effective ways to deliver a subject matter to students and how to get students interested in the topic so they can learn and apply key concepts. Accounting is a tough subject. Expecting students to memorize key concepts is outdated. The book gives a student-centered approach to teaching.

Winner of the Virginia and Warren Stone Prize awarded annually by Harvard University Press for an outstanding book on education and societyWhat makes a great teacher great? Who are the professors students remember long after graduation? This book, the conclusion of a fifteen-year study of nearly one hundred college teachers in a wide variety of fields and universities, offers valuable answers for all educators. The short answer ismdash;it's not what teachers do, it's what they understand. Lesson plans and lecture notes matter less than the special way teachers comprehend the subject and value human learning. Whether historians or physicists, in El Paso or St. Paul, the best teachers know their subjects inside and outmdash;but they also know how to engage and challenge students and to provoke impassioned responses. Most of all, they believe two things fervently: that teaching matters and that students can learn.

From Publishers WeeklyBain's sound and scholarly yet exuberant promotion of America's "best college teachers" abounds with jaunty anecdotes and inspiring opinions that make student-centered instruction look not only infectious, but downright imperative. Teachers may enjoy the book's plummy examples from their peers' interdisciplinary curriculummdash;such as the Harvard chemistry professor whose "lesson on polymers becomes the story of how the development of nylons influenced the outcome of World War II" or the U Penn art professor whose computer game allows students to determine the authenticity of a questionable Rembrandt. Bain's most compelling arguments, however, concern the quirks and motivations of today's college students. Though he acknowledges nationwide trends toward grade inflation, he invokes a 1990 study that suggests students are most driven by "high demands" and prefer "plentiful opportunities to revise and improve their work before it receives a grade." Likewise, the book argues that, even in the cutthroat climate of today's competitive colleges, students thrive best in cooperative classrooms. The best teachers, Bain avers, understand and exceed such expectations, and use them to create "natural critical learning environments." Easy-to-follow headingsmdash;such as "Start with the Students Rather Than the Discipline"mdash;help readers learn to create such environments, too. Inspiring though this slender book will be for college teachers at all levels, it may also delight the general reader with nostalgic reminders of their finest classroom experiences. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistWith the strong conviction that good teaching can be learned, and after 15 years of observing teachers in action, Bain undertook an exploration of the essentials of effective teaching. The result is an insightful look at what makes a great teacher, based on a study of three dozen teachers from a cross section of disciplines from medical-school faculties to undergraduate departments. After interviewing students and colleagues, observing classrooms and laboratories, and examining course materials from syllabi to lecture notes, Bain concludes that the quality of teaching is measured not by whether students pass exams but whether they retain the material to such an extent that it influences their thoughts and actions. Bain focuses on what the best teachers know and understand about their subject matter as well as the learning process; how they prepare; what they expect of their students; how they treat students; and how they evaluate student progress. Although this book is aimed at teachers, it is a thoughtful and valuable resource for students and parents as well. Vanessa Bush Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved Reading this book is a joy. Ken Bain has conducted years of careful research on a variety of campuses, and the result is an inspirational summary of what teachers do that truly makes a difference in students' lives, and what any teacher can do to improve. As a teacher myself, I found I couldn't put this book down. (Richard Light, author of Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds)Bain's sound and scholarly yet exuberant promotion of America's 'best college teachers' abounds with jaunty anecdotes and inspiring opinions that make student-centered

instruction look not only infectious, but downright imperative...Though he acknowledges nationwide trends toward grade inflation, he invokes a 1990 study that suggests students are most driven by 'high demands' and prefer 'plentiful opportunities to revise and improve their work before it receives a grade.' Likewise, the book argues that, even in the cutthroat climate of today's competitive colleges, students strive best in cooperative classrooms. The best teachers, Bain avers, understand and exceed such expectations. (Publishers Weekly 2004-03-29)With the strong conviction that good teaching can be learned, and after 15 years of observing teachers in action, Bain undertook an exploration of the essentials of effective teaching. The result is an insightful look at what makes a great teacher, based on a study of three dozen teachers from a cross section of disciplines from medical-school faculties to undergraduate departments. (Vanessa Bush Booklist 2004-03-15)Bain, a historian and director of New York University's Center for Teaching Excellence, studied 63 outstanding college teachers (as deemed by students and colleagues as well as by an examination of their students' work) from diverse institutions in an attempt to identify their common traits. What he discovered is pertinent to all teachers, including those at the K-12 level. (David Ruenzel Teacher Magazine 2004-05-01)It combines a robust theoretical framework grounded in the latest scholarship, the wisdom of best practices, and a unique depiction of how successful educators think about their teaching. (Paul Keim Christian Century 2005-02-22)Ken Bain's *What the Best College Teachers Do* has generated considerable buzz, and rightly so. Based on a careful study of 60 outstanding teachers from a variety of disciplines and institutions, it distills valuable lessons that warrant the consideration of anyone who wishes to be more effective in drawing students into the life of the mind...[Readers] will find its various discussions to be uncommonly well grounded and uncommonly inspiring. (David E. Leary APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy 2007-09-01)It remains for me the single most inspiring and thought-provoking work in the field. Bain's deep analysis of the teaching attitudes and practices of a small cohort of outstanding teachers, buttressed by research from the learning sciences and narrated in lively prose, provides multiple models for college educators to reflect upon, discuss, and emulate. Nine years after its initial publication, it continues to stimulate my own continuing meditations on teaching. (James M. Lang Chronicle of Higher Education 2013-02-19)