

Motivating Underachievers  
By Carolyn Coil

This book is wonderful. I have been teaching Middle School for the past 5 years and each year I have seen my share of underachieving students. Motivating Underachievers gives you 220 strategies for success. It gives you characteristics to look for in the underachieving student. It talks about what motivation is and how to eliminate motivation destroyers.

This book gives you different strategies to help the underachiever build his or her self esteem. It breaks down the different strategies for improving study skills and how to remediate different academic weaknesses. There is a section that talks about how ones teaching style can affect the motivation and success of students. I really like the checklist for the “Learning Styles” and “Learning Modalities.” These are great tools for teachers to use in order to cater to the students’ needs. Another great chapter in the book is about working with parents of underachievers and understanding the family background. It gave really good tips on how to communicate effectively and positively.

As a whole, this book gets 2 thumbs up. I got lots of good strategies and tips from it, and I will definitely use it in the upcoming school years.

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