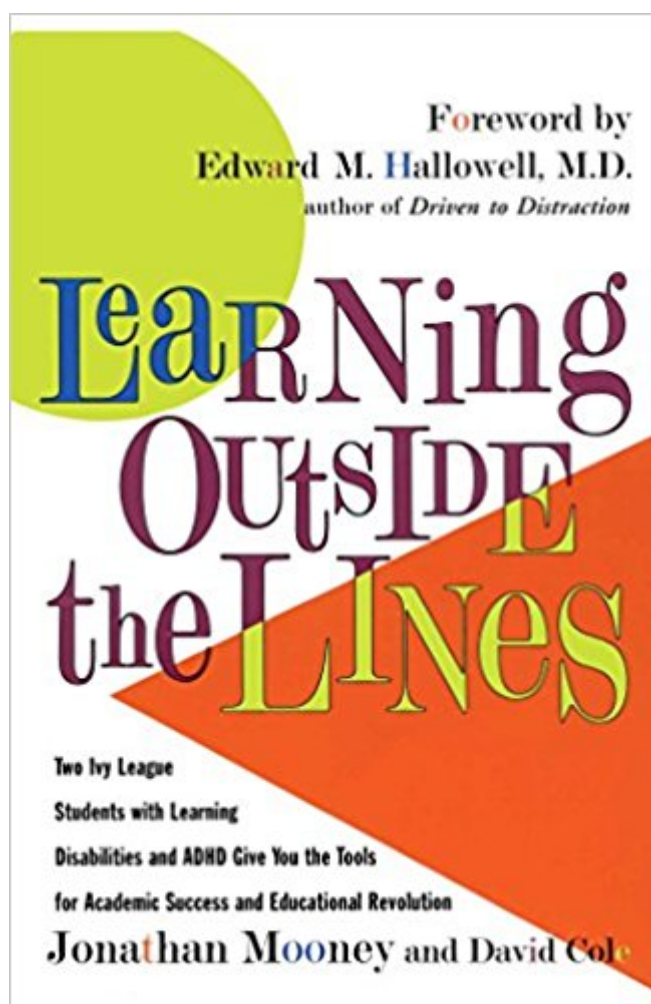


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# Learning Outside The Lines: Two Ivy League Students With Learning Disabilities And ADHD Give You The Tools For Academic Success And Educational Revolution





## Synopsis

Written by two Ivy League graduates who struggled with learning disabilities and ADHD, *Learning Outside the Lines* teaches students how to take control of their education and find true success with brilliant and easy study suggestions and tips. Every day, your school, your teachers, and even your peers draw lines to measure and standardize intelligence. They decide what criteria make one person smart and another person stupid. They decide who will succeed and who will just get by. Perhaps you find yourself outside the norm, because you learn differently—but, unlike your classmates, you have no system in place that consistently supports your ability and desire to learn. Simply put, you are considered lazy and stupid. You are expected to fail. *Learning Outside the Lines* is written by two such “academic failures”—that is, two academic failures who graduated from Brown University at the top of their class. Jonathan Mooney and David Cole teach you how to take control of your education and find true success—and they offer all the reasons why you should persevere. Witty, bold, and disarmingly honest, *Learning Outside the Lines* takes you on a journey toward personal empowerment and profound educational change, proving once again that rules sometimes need to be broken.

## Book Information

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Touchstone; 1 edition (September 5, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068486598X

ISBN-13: 978-0684865980

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 97 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #42,962 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Special Education > Learning Disabled #31 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Mental Health > Attention Deficit & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders #70 in Books > Education & Teaching > Studying & Workbooks > Study Skills

## Customer Reviews

Criticism for the public school system in the United States is nothing new; kids of all skill levels are slipping through the cracks at every age and in every city. Rather than attempting to change the system or point out its failures, Jonathon Mooney and David Cole have created a practical guide to

help kids jump through the necessary hoops to achieve whatever larger, postschool goals they may have. While much of the material is written for kids who've received the label LD or ADHD, many of the suggestions can be just as helpful for those who've been labeled "gifted," or any other student who feels frustrated with the daily routine of standard education. The introduction (personal histories of the authors) is great reading for parents of LD or ADHD kids, and much of it has a humorous tone that makes it equally appropriate (and approachable) for discouraged adolescents. From the terror of weekly spelling tests to the few inspiring teachers and tutors the two encountered, the tales are equal parts entertaining, poignant, and encouraging to others who may well be experiencing quite similar events. There's little discussion of what methods are right or wrong--ultimately, both authors take a fundamentally pragmatic view, and it's "right" if it worked. A steady focus on study skills fills the majority of the book, and Mooney and Cole take what are generally pretty familiar stands on note-taking and test preparation and break them down into easily digestible concepts. With different methods for different types of learners (visual thinkers are encouraged to use maps and brightly colored markers), students will find plenty of help in creating notebooks, focusing their attention, and even appropriate ways of conducting the infamous all-nighter. Including information on how to recover lost class notebooks, how to make the most of a syllabus, and "The Seven Habits of Highly Disorganized People," *Learning Outside the Lines* provides students with plenty of tools to further each reader's personal idea of success. --Jill Lightner

Jonathan Mooney is a dyslexic student who did not learn to read until he was twelve years old. After attending Loyola Marymount University for one year, he transferred to Brown University, where he graduated with an honors degree in English. Mooney is also the recipient of the distinguished Truman Fellowship for graduate study in the field of learning disabilities and special education.

I enjoyed the irreverent voice and very practical tips. I am the parent of an eighth grade student with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia. My ongoing challenge is to get her through school with her self esteem intact. I am grateful to the authors for taking the time to write this book. *Project Eye to Eye* is a brilliant concept!!

I enjoyed reading this book, and discovering what I already knew - that academically minded, scholarly people who get good grades and are great readers, writers, and test takers aren't the only achievers out there! It is a TRAVESTY the way our schools cater to basically one type of learner,

and the rest fall through the cracks, suffering self esteem and poor grades along the way. When in essence, they are just as smart, and certainly NOT dumb, as the A and B kids.

I wish I had this book before I started college. Even if you don't have or don't know you have any learning disabilities (ADD/ADHD/dyslexia, etc). These are better study tools than what I had learned. Give this to kids in high school and incorporate into study skills classes.

The book has excellent content, but the one author is very hard to follow and while I understand their intent in freely swearing frequently, it's a bit unnecessary and annoying at times.

I enjoyed this book because it has practical recommendations that are easy to visualize and understand. These recommendations are also Holistic in that provide easy and organized solutions from the point a child is given a task to completion of that task. For example, one such example is homework completion. The recommendation begins when a child is assigned homework and finishes when the homework is safely turned into the teacher.

I had leafed through this book one day in the library and it looked interesting. So, I bought one and I keep it with me always! I use it like a reference book. I found the chapters on reading and writing for people with learning disabilities the best. Once I started using the techniques, I saved my semester and my Grad School career! I was on academic probation and had to pass all classes (I'd gotten an "F") before. When I came back to try Grad school again, I had two "D's" at mid terms my first semester back! I read the book from cover to cover and kept it with me after that. I went from two "D's", a "B", and an "A" to two "A's", a "A-", and a "B" over the next six weeks. By the time finals came I was in the clear. The next semester I got straight "A's" for the first time in my life! All using techniques from this book! You have to get it. If you have ADHD or another learning disability like I do, it will help for sure!

A helpful book for students who are looking for a more effective way to study. It is a compilation of those strategies that the authors found useful as students as well as those used by friends. They suggest picking and choosing between the strategies described and giving them a try. I have given this book to several students as they graduated from high school. Some have thanked me for it after their first semester at college.

I was really eager to read this book and better understand learning disabilities and how to help those around me who may suffer from them. To be fair, I think this book is much more for high school students and beyond, and my interest was in younger students. So, it may have been my needs and expectations that made the book less than awesome. I loved the first part of the book. The stories about the authors, their struggles, their examples, their perspective on their situations was fantastic, interesting, and full of valuable insights. For me, once the book (almost halfway through) shifted into their recommendations as to how to overcome the learning disability, I lost all interest. It was extremely general and an exhaustive list of all the things that could possibly be done. There was no particular insight as to which ones are more impactful, for what types of disabilities or why. It is an amazing story that these two authors have lived. I wish them great success, and I would love to read the biographies of their lives at some point! Go get them! Congrats!

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