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# The Flight Instructor's Survival Guide: True, Witty, Insightful Stories Illustrating The Fundamentals Of Instructing



## Synopsis

After passing the FAA's Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI) knowledge test required of all instructors, the true challenge begins—applying that knowledge in the real world of teaching flight. Follow along as Arlynn McMahon lifts the FOI principles from the classroom and brings them into the cockpit. Her forty-four stories demonstrate the FOI principles in flight and offer practical strategies for dealing with both common and unexpected situations—all with wisdom, grace, and humor. McMahon's companion to the Aviation Instructor's Handbook (FAA-H-8083-9) uses memorable parables and provides sage advice to illustrate FOI principles at work with real clients in real-life situations. Psychology, human factors, professionalism, effective communication, customer service, and ethics are evident in her teaching style with the people she's interacted with over decades in the business of flight training. McMahon's experiences illustrate what works—and why—for instructors and their students. Through artful storytelling, McMahon shows how a successful instructor is sometimes a psychologist, other times a detective, and always a gatekeeper enforcing rules and cultivating the behaviors required to be a responsible aviation citizen. Delightful, full of wisdom—and written with humor, kindness, and dignity for her students—this is an invaluable guide for all flight and ground instructors who will benefit from using McMahon's insights with their own clients.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

New flight instructors can enhance their store of professional wisdom with this book. Arlynn McMahon shares insights she's gained from three decades of flight instruction in a series of

fast-paced vignettes. A flat tire encountered by an instructor and student pilot late at night while taxiing an airplane at a rural airport isn't an emergency, even if they can't get a cell phone signal. But having some "convenience gear" (like a sill cock key) in one's flight bag can make the wait for a nearby airport control tower to open up and receive a radio call much more comfortable. Being prepared for this kind of situation is one way for instructors to demonstrate their professionalism and teach clients to be prepared, too. How does a relatively new flight instructor modify lesson plans to work with a newly retired airline captain transitioning to single-engine airplanes? How does one safely manage a 16-year-old student pilot's first solo upon learning that the parents have invited dozens of family friends to a "watch party" on the terminal building's observation deck? The Flight Instructor's Survival Guide is a gem of a book about the real-life application of the fundamentals of instruction to these and other situations. FYI: I completed the requirements for a private pilot certificate, instrument rating and ground instructor certificate at the flight school where Arlynn was part-owner and chief flight instructor. I am a fan and friend.

Well worth reading if you are an aspiring flight instructor. The author shares her experiences with a broad range of flight students, good and bad, and links the stories to the fundamentals of instructing and the FAA's Aviation Instructor's Handbook. She does a good job of providing memorable real life examples of key concepts. Recommended.

I see myself in a couple of the stories. great read and I am sure I will be referring back to it often

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