**LEARNING STYLES & STRATEGIES**

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**QUESTION**

Why is it important to understand how our students learn?

- Because students cannot learn in an environment where the teacher is the only active one and the student is passive.
- To facilitate learning we must understand who are students are and their learning styles to truly be effective. (Blue, 2009; Kazu, 2009)

This is an opportunity and a challenge for teachers (Hawk & Shah, 2007)
**BRAINSTORM**

What types of teaching methods do you typically in class?

**THINK-PAIR-SHARE**

Have you tried any of these ideas? What are possible consequences (good and bad) of these ideas?
THESIS FOR UNDERSTANDING LEARNING STYLES & STRATEGIES

The key to being effective in the classroom is quite simple. In essence, we need to ensure that the teaching and assessment choices we make are clearly linked to the clarity about the character of learning we intend for our students. This vital linkage must be maintained. (Marchese, 2012)

So how do we accomplish this?

LEARNING STYLES – KEY CONCEPT 1

- **Learning style may vary for different situations** (Mori, 2010; Kazu 2009)
  - A student’s learning style affects how they prefer to receive information (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile) (Mori, 2010)
  - A student’s learning style affects their preferred method of problem solving (experimenting, conceptualizing, reflective observation) (Mori, 2010)
LEARNING STYLES – KEY CONCEPT 2

- Teaching style parallels learning style (Mori, 2010)
  - Learning style has cognitive, affective and psychological aspects (Kazu, 2009)

LEARNING STYLES – KEY CONCEPT #3

- Learning is a process whereby knowledge is created through the transformation of experience (Hawk & Shah, 2007)
  - By combining different ways of perceiving and processing what emerges is four different learning styles (Mori, 2010)
KOLB EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THEOR

Concrete Experience (Feeling)
Reflective Observation (Watching)
Abstract Conceptualization (Thinking)
Active Experimentation (Doing)

Accommodator (CE/AE) Feel and Do
Diverger (CE/RO) Feel and Watch
Converger (AC/AE) Think and Do
Assimilator (AC/RO) Think and Watch


Adapted From: Hein & Budny, 1999; Hawk & Shah, 2007

KOLB EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THEORY EXPLAINED

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn_dXydPAoY&feature=em-share_video_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn_dXydPAoY&feature=em-share_video_user)
Kolb’s Learning Styles and Learning Modes

**Learning Styles**
- **Assimilative**
  - Strengths: Building theoretical models
  - Emphasis: Less on people and more on ideas and concepts

**Learning Modes**
- **Abstract Conceptualization**
  - Focus: Logic, ideas and concepts
  - Values: Conceptual systems and rigorous idea analysis

ADAPTED FROM KOLB 1984 (RICHMOND & CUMMINGS, 2005)
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Learning Styles
- Accommodative
  - Strengths: Doing and risk-taking
  - Emphasis: Adapting oneself to new situations

Learning Modes
- Concrete Experiences
  - Focus: Involved interpersonal experiences
  - Values: Real world situations

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Learning Modes
- Active Experimentation
  - Focus: Influencing people and changing situations
  - Values: Ability to manipulate environments
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Learning Styles

- Convergent
  - Strengths: Intelligence tests
  - Emphasis: Problem solving and decision making

Learning Modes

- Active Experimentation
  - Focus: Influencing people and changing situations
  - Values: Ability to manipulate environments

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### Learning Styles

**Divergent**

- **Strengths:** Creativity and brainstorming
- **Emphasis:** Social interaction and perspective taking

### Learning Modes

**Reflective Observation**

- **Focus:** Understand meaning of ideas
- **Values:** Patience, impartiality and thoughtful judgment

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### Learning Styles

**Concrete Experiences**

- **Strengths:** Creativity and brainstorming
- **Emphasis:** Social interaction and perspective taking

### Learning Modes

**Concrete Experiences**

- **Focus:** Involved interpersonal experiences
- **Values:** Real world situations
TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR KOLB’S LEARNING STYLES AND MODES

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNxCporOofo&feature=em-share_video_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNxCporOofo&feature=em-share_video_user)

THINK PAIR SHARE – WHAT NEW TEACHING STRATEGIES ARE YOU NOW WILLING TO TRY FROM THOSE BELOW

Teaching Activities That Accommodate Kolb Learning Processes

Adapted from Hawk & Shah, 2007
CONCLUSION

To conclude, the more a teacher can emphasize the Kolb attributes below – the greater chance students will achieve increased levels of learning that makes a difference in real life:

- Learner independence and choice
- Intrinsic motivators and natural curiosity
- Rich, timely useable feedback
- Occasions for reflection
- Active involvement in real-world tasks
- Emphasis of higher-order abilities
- The ability to work with other people
- High challenge – low threat environments
- The opportunity for practice and reinforcement (Marchese, 2012)

REFERENCES

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THANK YOU!

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