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)

2

BRAINSTORM

What types of teaching methods do you typically in class?

3

THINK-PAIR-SHARE

Have you tried any of these ideas? What are possible consequences (good and bad) of these ideas?

4

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?

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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)

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LEARNING STYLES – KEY CONCEPT 2

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

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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)

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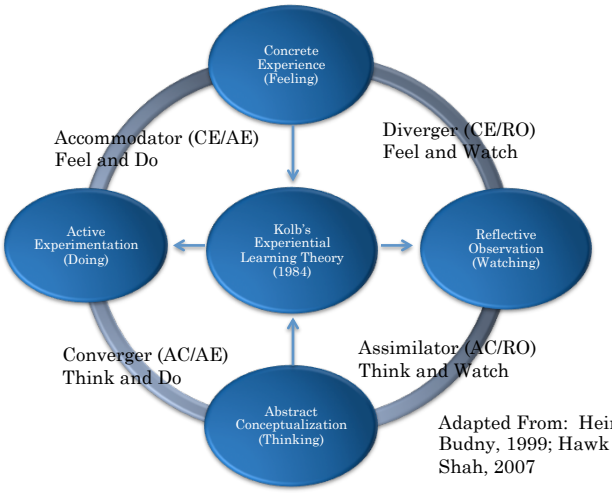
KOLB EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THEORY



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

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KOLB EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THEORY EXPLAINED

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn_dXydPAoY&feature=em-share_video_user

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Kolb's Learning Styles and Learning Modes

ADAPTED FROM KOLB 1984 (RICHMOND & CUMMINGS, 2005)

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

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Reflective Observation

Focus: Understand meaning of ideas

Values: Patience, impartiality and thoughtful judgment

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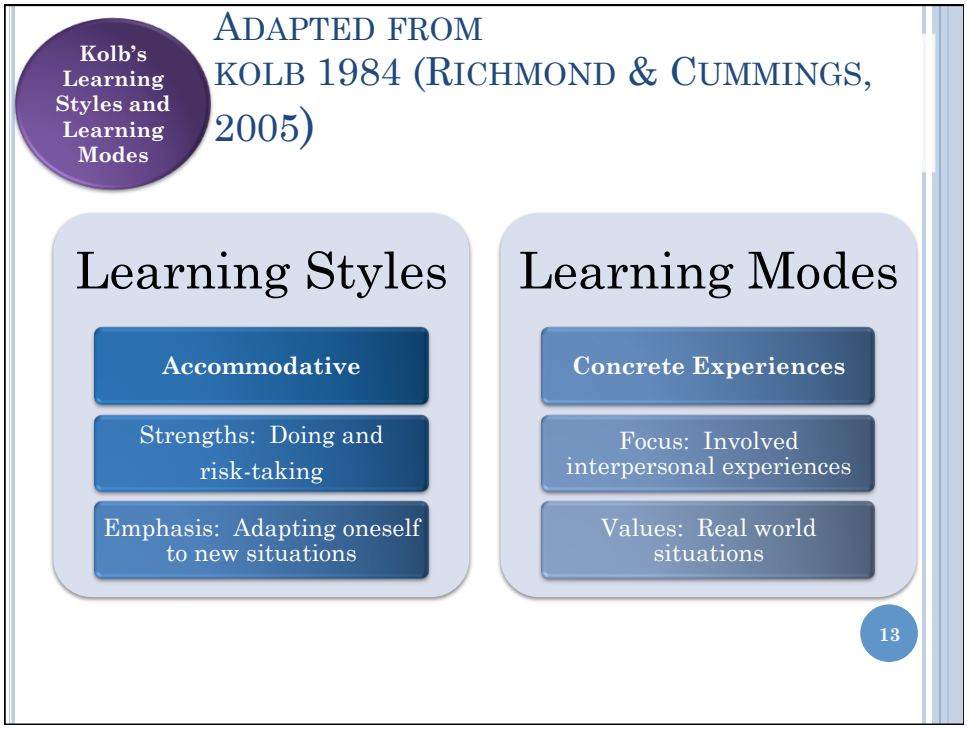
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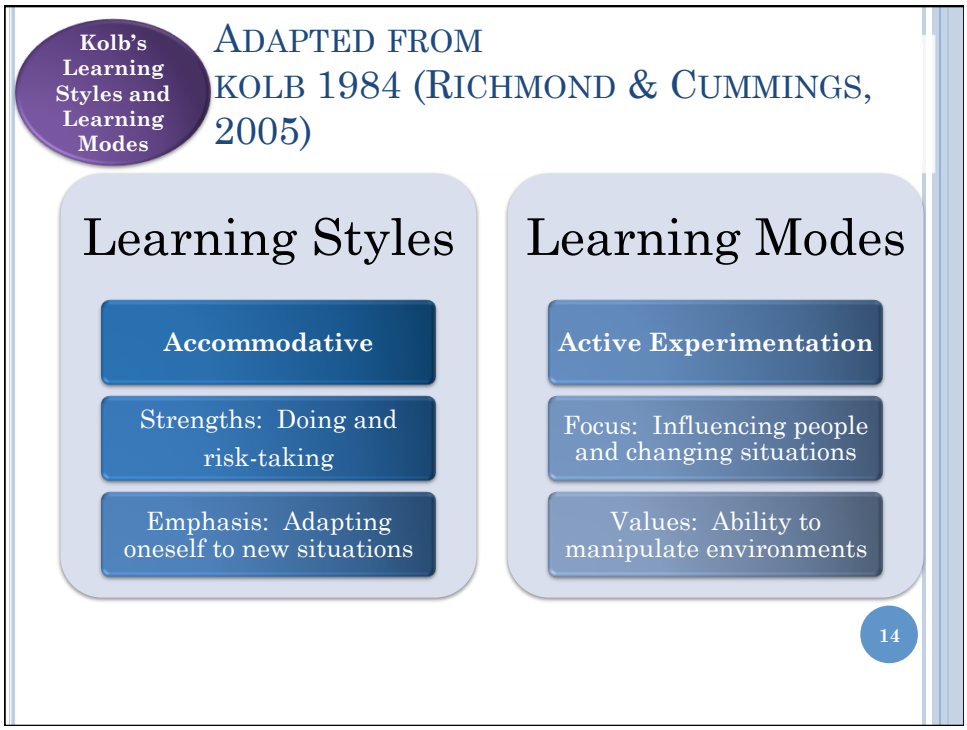
Strengths: Doing and risk-taking
Emphasis: Adapting oneself to new situations
Learning Modes
Concrete Experiences
Focus: Involved interpersonal experiences
Values: Real world situations
13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Focus: Influencing people and changing situations
Values: Ability to manipulate environments
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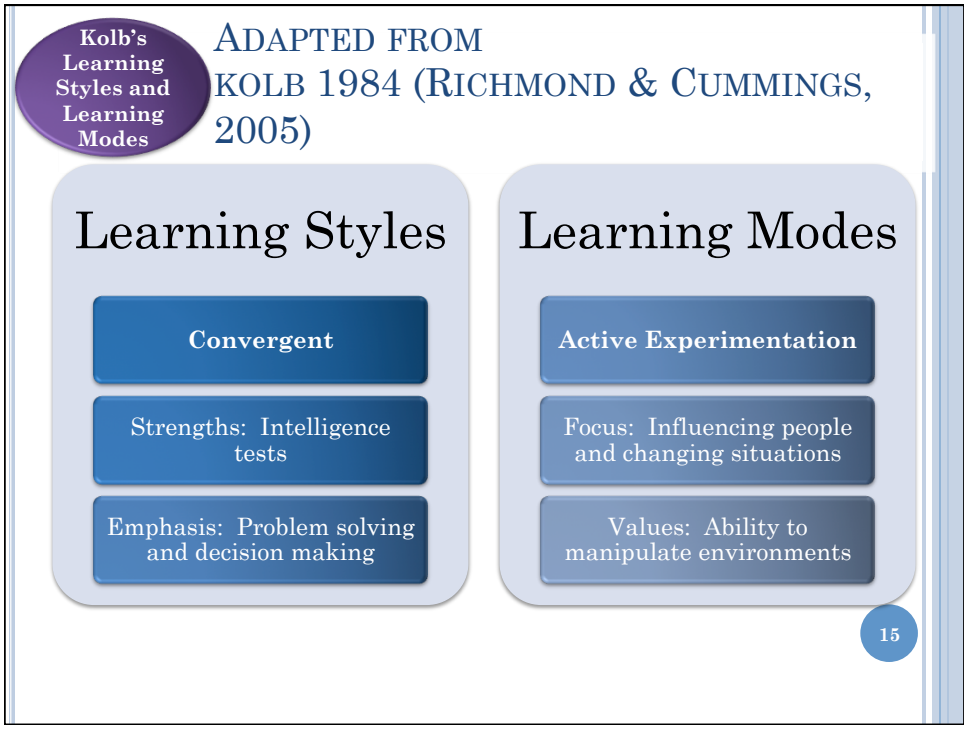
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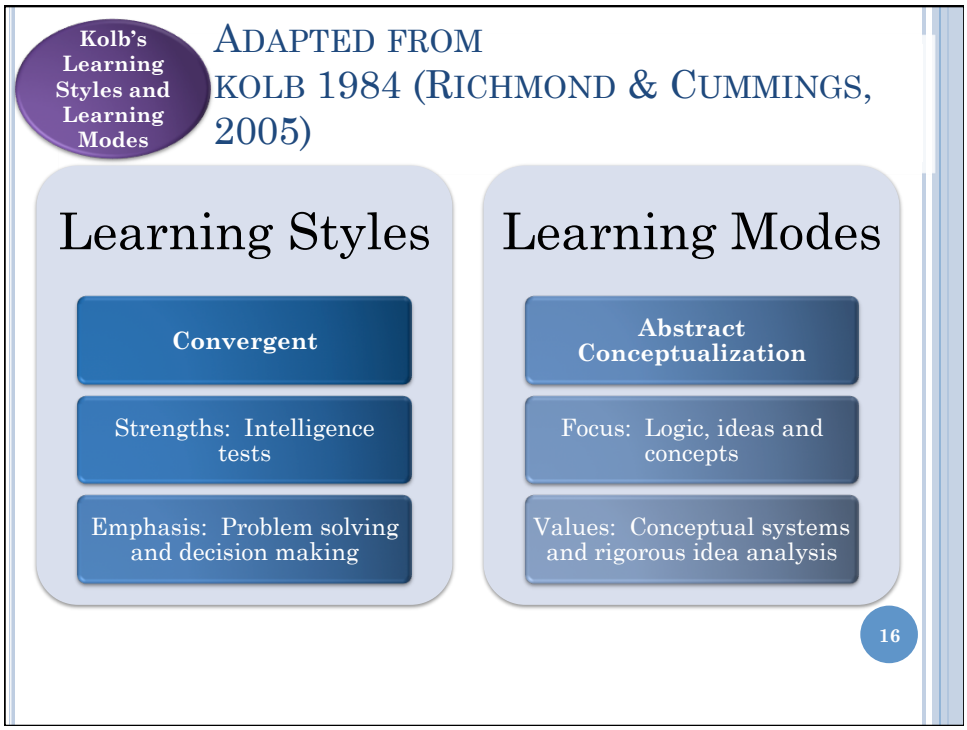
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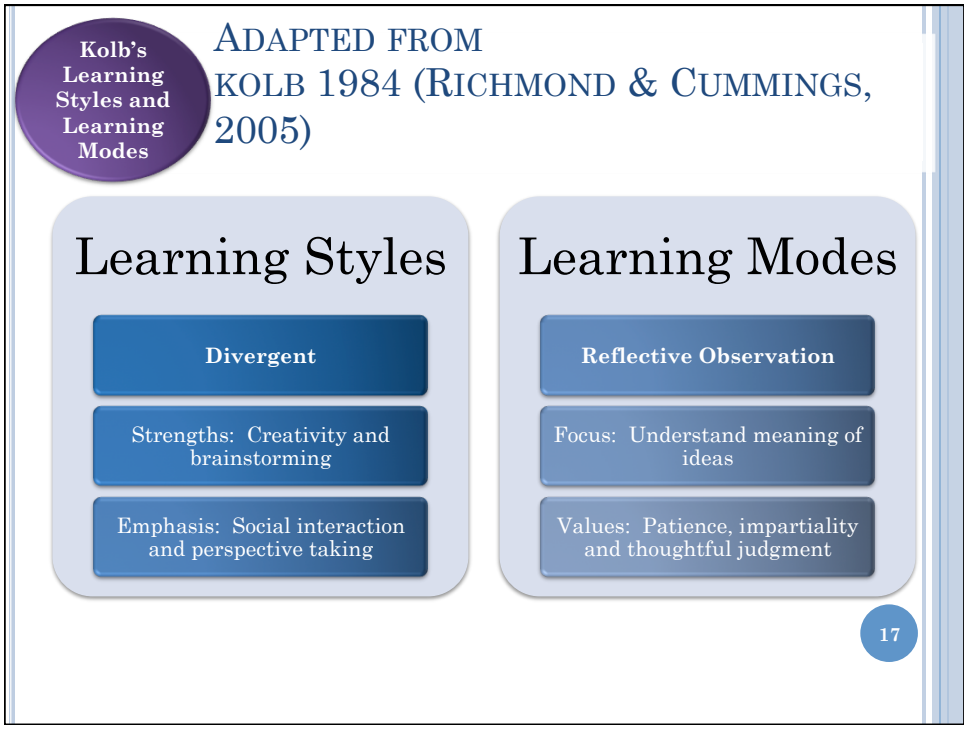
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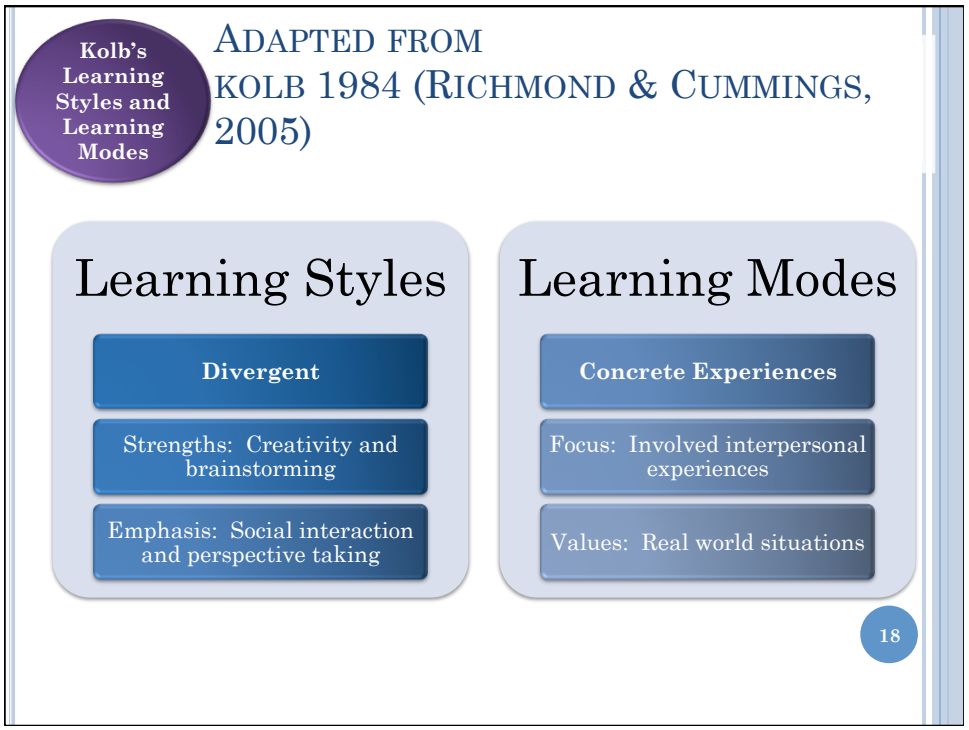
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TEACHING STRATEGIES FOR KOLB'S LEARNING STYLES AND MODES

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

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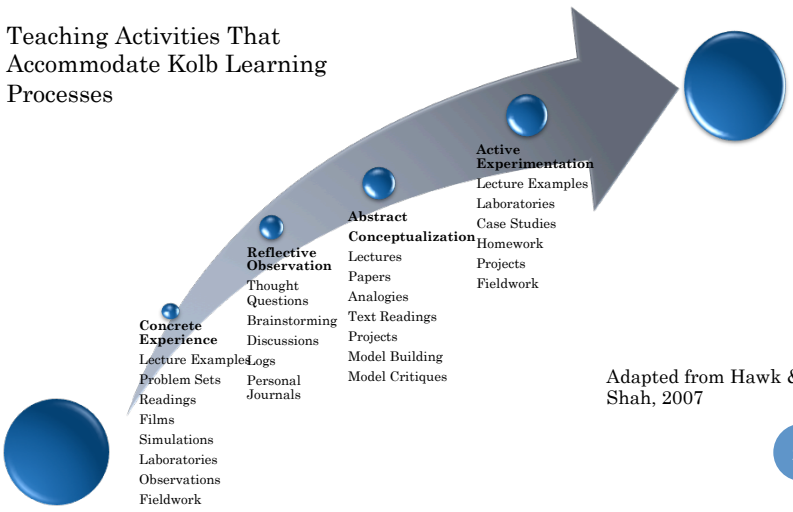
THINK PAIR SHARE – WHAT NEW TEACHING STRATEGIES ARE YOU NOW WILLING TO TRY FROM THOSE BELOW

Teaching Activities That Accommodate Kolb Learning Processes



Adapted from Hawk & Shah, 2007

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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 curiousity
  - 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)

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THANK YOU!

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