

I Can Learn!

Can you teach me to learn? Well, that depends on the way you're going to teach. According to Heidi Lujan, "Learning is not committing a set of facts to memory, but the ability to use resources to find, evaluate, and apply information." I can usually only understand what is taught if I see it done, or try it myself; therefore, I can be classified as a visual learner. I also learn by the active learning style. To learn, I must try things out for myself. Of all the learning styles, active and visual learning are the only one's that really work for me.

Visual learners, also known as spatially intelligent learners, are people that prefer to see information (Silver 20). They usually prefer information that is presented by charts and graphs, but some are print oriented, meaning they can remember a word if they see it printed on a paper or somewhere. (Sprenger 36) Movies, field trips, maps, graphs, charts, and pictures usually help them interested in what the teacher says in class and helps make learning real to them (Sprenger 36).

Active learners, on the other hand, a hands on technique that they use to find out how things work. These learners are usually the one's you see sitting on the kitchen floor taking the toaster apart (Fuller 61). Another example of active learners are kids in a science class dissecting a frog. Since they are dissecting, they can learn all about the muscles, organs, and bones instead of just reading about it in a book and not being interested at all about what is being said. (Fuller 62) According to Miri Barak, "In active learning, students are involved in more than listening passively; emphasis is placed less on transmitting information and more on developing their cognitive and operative skills."

An example of me learning took place when my dad attempted to tell me how to do the wiring on my boat. He kept trying to tell me how to wire from the positive end of the battery to a switch then to a negative ground wire in order complete the circuit. It became almost impossible for me to understand what he was said since all he did was tell me, so I eventually had him go out to the boat and show me. I actually learned about electrical work this way. I had another instance where I learned to strip and refinish wood floors. My dad tried to tell me a little bit about what was involved in this process. Once again, him just telling me didn't work. He ended up showing me how you have to strip the entire floor down to the bare wood, vacuum all the sawdust out of the wood, and how to apply the polyurethane coat to the wood. This process sounds simple to tell a person, but for me, it took me actually getting involved in this work to learn how to do it.

I had a math teacher once who really knew how to teach to where the information would stick with you. He taught me best when he actually put the problems on the board. Whenever we needed to see how an algebra problem was worked, he would have detailed step-by-step instructions on the board for us. He did even better when he let us attack a few algebra problems on our own by letting us to work out the problem on our own. When he did this, I started seeing the different methods that were easiest for me and was able to get out of the state of boredom I was in from hearing him talk.

As I said before, if you want to teach me and have me truly learn what you're talking about, you're going to have to show me or let me try it out on my own. It's not that you telling me what to do instead of just showing me is the wrong way to teach everyone, it's just not the way I can be taught. I also do not think that you are a bad teacher for standing up and lecturing the whole time because I know some people learn

best by just hearing you talk. I am not able to though, because I will become extremely bored and drift away. You are a great teacher, just please consider what I have talked about and I promise that you can teach me to learn.

Works Cited

- Barak, Miri. "Wireless Laptops As Means For Promoting Active Learning In Large Lecture Halls." Journal of Research on Technology In Education (2006).
Wilson Web. San Antonio College Lib., 13 Mar. 2006
- Fuller, Cheri. Talkers, Watchers, and Doers. Colorado Springs: Pinion Press, 2004.
- Lujan, Heidi. "Too Much Teaching, Not Enough Learning: What Is The Solution?" Advances In Physiological Education (2006). Wilson Web. San Antonio College Lib., 13 Mar. 2006.
- Silver, Harvey F. So Each May Learn. Alexandria: Silver Strong and Associates, 2000.
- Sprenger, Marilee. Differentiation Through Learning Styles And Memory. Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press, 2003.