

Learning Style: Final Draft

As college students, we are expected to adapt to the environment of the professor's teaching method as effortlessly as breathing. And in my experience no matter if certain teachers may deny it: how the teacher approaches teaching students can and will make an impact on how they will learn. A common situation is that many teachers have a 'one way teaching method' and if a select handful of students had a difficult time they were often labeled as; slow, rebellious, or even lazy. That might be the case in some, but in the learning situation as many students like myself simply have a difficult time learning outside of the best way we know how.

I recall during my first semester in high school I started my first half in Spanish. The first half was very difficult as my teacher had high expectations but had little to no passion into her work. With his 'teach once then move on' method, I barely could keep my grades up. But fortunately during my second semester I was transferred to another teacher. It made a great difference to have more of a comfortable learning environment. She made the class enjoyable and made me see this second language and in a whole different way. I was able to approach my learning new way of communicating as a positive experience though out high school, even to this day I can recall over a quarter of what methods she taught me.

Learning for me is sometimes challenging, esp. when it's on a topic that is completely new to me. I favor learning visually, esp. if it's a topic I'm not familiar with or did not quite understand. The Author of "It Doesn't Take A Genius", Randall McCutcheon states that, "Students learn from us that words matter. That is,

if we make the process of learning those words joyful. Modeling imaginative language use is our responsibility as teachers. Too many teachers trivialize content by relying on what I call a “PowerPoint presentation” approach in the classroom. The information these teachers present are clear and accurate. But the way they use language fails to engage students. (McCutcheon 116)

I feel confident when I write my own notes from pictures and graphs, that way I can remember the facts more effectively. I can also take notes from a textbook but I find that my notes can be rigid and formal because of the source. Opposed to being a verbal learner who according to the Visual and Verbal learning are people who ‘understand new information best through written and spoken words’. It can be difficult keeping my attention up while picking out the important information, and at times it can be overwhelming trying to hear and understand what I need out of my teachers’ lecture.

Outside of school it’s a similar situation. There has been a few times last year only when my boss expects me to go to a location I have never been to. My boss is most likely being a verbal learner by giving me directions as accurate as possible such as: the exit number to get off, what street name to turn, even how many miles going down on a street. Unfortunately as detailed that might be, it gives very limited information. As I read the directions I prefer mentally ‘drive’ to where I need to go, using my past experience as a guideline. For example, when I go off on a numbered exit, it’s the same as going to my best friend’s house, or taking a first right to the Sonic next to our

old high school. Sometimes just so I know I'm on the right track, I'll ask what are some of the major buildings on the way to my destination.

Being a visual learner can be a little frustrating, simple because not every everyone teaches that way. Bonnie Frazee author of 'Crossing the Finish Line' states that "It is no surprise that we see such an emphasis on visual learners. Visual learning is the prominent learning style for around 65 percent of the population." (Frazee) As a student I greatly favored my notes to be in pictures so I can put it in my own words, making it easier for me to learn and memorize facts.

There are more or less about sixty-four percent of college professors are intuitive learners ("On Learning Styles"), which is a bit of a disadvantage on my end to a certain point. It helps me learn the detailed steps, which is a plus when it's my first time learning the topic. Yet to keep what I learned in my head I have to do repetitions, the more I repeat it the better chances it stays in my long term memory. And the more it's engraved into my memory, the more confident I feel as I'm walking down my own path of how I learn.

Work Cited

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