

3.20 Learning Styles

Student Objective

Students will be able to identify kinesthetic, auditory, and visual learning styles while determining which of these is their dominant learning style.

Overview

Understanding themselves as learners is one part of the journey for students in becoming self-directed learners. In the elementary classroom, our goal is to empower students with both the knowledge and skills to take ownership over their learning. Teaching students about learning styles provides them with the tools to identify their own learning styles while also developing strategies to compensate when their dominant learning style is not met in a classroom situation.

Materials/Set-Up

- Student Handouts:
 - 3.20a: The AVID Brain
 - 3.20b: Learning Styles Inventory
 - 3.20c: My Learning Style Reflection
 - 3.20d: Learning Styles Mandala
- Highlighters

Instructional Steps

- Provide each student with a copy of Student Handout 3.20a: The AVID Brain.
- Instruct students to independently read the handout, circle key words, and underline main ideas.
- In partners, have students share their current understanding of each learning style. Make learning style connections for students based on the information that is added to the chart by having them identify responses that would be considered kinesthetic (drawing a hand), auditory (drawing an ear), or visual (drawing eyes) next to each response.
- Pass out Student Handout 3.20b: Learning Styles Inventory for students to complete independently.
- Once they have completed the inventory, have each student tally the total number of responses of each letter (i.e., count the number of “A” responses, etc.). The letter that has the highest number helps in determining the student’s dominant learning style (A = Auditory, B = Visual, C = kinesthetic).
- Have students form alike groups according to their most dominate learning style.
- Within their alike groups, have students pair up into smaller groups of two or three and complete Student Handout 3.20d: Learning Styles Mandala by using illustrations and/or words that best describe their learning style.
- Bring students back together as a whole group and ask for volunteers to share their learning style by discussing their mandala.
- To close the activity, have students individually complete Student Handout 3.20c: My Learning Style Reflection. This could also be used as a homework assignment or a follow-up activity on a different day.

To adapt this lesson for primary classes:

- Use chart paper to label three areas of the room: Auditory or A, Visual or B, Kinesthetic or C.
- Using the Learning Styles Inventory, read one statement at a time and have students move to the wall labeled with the learning style that best describes them.
 - Response A = Auditory, Response B = Visual, and Response C = Kinesthetic
- Provide students with a three-column notes page, with columns labeled: Auditory or A, Visual or B, Kinesthetic or C. Each time a student goes to a wall, they put a tally mark on their page in the appropriate column. An example scenario is provided below:
 - Read each statement out loud, “When I listen to a class lesson...”
 - A (auditory): I listen very closely.
 - B (visual): I try to be close to the speaker and watch the speaker.
 - C (kinesthetic): I take notes.”
 - Students who choose Response A would move to the wall labeled A or Auditory and make one tally mark on their chart in the A or Auditory column. Students who choose B would move to the wall labeled B or Visual and would make one tally mark on their chart in the B or Visual column, etc.
- Repeat this process through each question on the inventory.
- Have students go back to their seats and tally up how many tally marks they have in each column.
- Using their notes, help student understand which is their most dominant learning style.
- As a whole group, create a Learning Styles Mandala for each of the learning styles. This may take several days to complete.

Extension

- To increase rigor, add additional learning style groupings, such as: Kinesthetic/Auditory, Kinesthetic/Visual, Auditory/Visual, Kinesthetic/Auditory/Visual.
- To integrate technology, provide students with a template and have them create their mandala on a computer or tablet.

The AVID Brain

Directions: As you read the information below, circle key words and underline main ideas. Then work with a partner to do a think-pair-share to answer the questions on the following page.

Research shows that students process information using all of their senses, but in most students, one sense is dominant. These senses are important in the education process, as they influence the way a student learns and communicates. The most common learning styles (ways of learning) are: auditory, visual and kinesthetic.

The Auditory Learner

Auditory learners learn primarily from listening, and they generally take five to seven seconds to process information. They may not take many notes because this might distract them from hearing the information. The auditory learner tends to look to the side when constructing or recalling information.

The Visual Learner

Visual learners learn primarily from seeing, and they generally take three to five seconds to process information. They like charts and graphs and take lots of notes. The visual learner tends to look up when constructing or recalling information.

The Kinesthetic Learner

Kinesthetic learners learn primarily from touch and experimentation. They can take up to 15 seconds to process information. The kinesthetic learner tends to look down when constructing or recalling information.

Learning Styles Inventory

Name: _____

Date: _____

Circle the response that best matches what you would do in the given situation.

- 1.** When I listen to a class lecture...
 - a. I listen very closely.
 - b. I try to be close to the speaker and watch the speaker.
 - c. I take notes during the lecture.

- 2.** I like to solve word problems by...
 - a. talking to a friend or to myself.
 - b. using an organized approach with lists or charts.
 - c. walking, pacing or doing something active.

- 3.** When someone tells me numbers, but I am unable to write them down, I...
 - a. repeat the numbers to myself out loud.
 - b. visualize or see the numbers in my mind.
 - c. write the numbers in the air or on the table.

- 4.** I learn something new by...
 - a. having someone explain it to me while I listen.
 - b. having someone do it for me while I watch.
 - c. doing it myself.

- 5.** When I watch a movie, I remember...
 - a. everything (what was said, music, background noises).
 - b. the costumes, environment and scenery.
 - c. how it made me feel.

- 6.** When I am trying to remember something, I...
 - a. hear what was said or what sounds were around me.
 - b. visualize it happening again in my mind.
 - c. feel the way I did when it happened.

- 7.** When I do not know how to spell a word, I...
 - a. sound it out.
 - b. see the word in my mind.
 - c. write the word on paper until it looks right.

Learning Styles Inventory

8. I enjoy reading when the story has...
 - a. a lot of dialogue (characters talking to each other).
 - b. a lot of descriptive words.
 - c. a lot of action.

9. I remember new people by...
 - a. their names.
 - b. their faces.
 - c. their actions.

10. I have a hard time concentrating when...
 - a. there is a lot of noise.
 - b. there are a lot of people.
 - c. I am uncomfortable (too hot, too cold, uncomfortable chair, etc.).

11. When it comes to clothes, I prefer to dress...
 - a. in any way, since clothes are not that important to me.
 - b. well – and I have a particular style.
 - c. comfortably, so I can move around easily.

12. If I cannot read aloud or get up and move around, I...
 - a. talk with a friend.
 - b. look out a window.
 - c. rock in my chair, tap my foot, drum my fingers or jiggle my pencil.

Scoring

Tally the number of responses for each letter.

Total of “a” responses _____

Total of “b” responses _____

Total of “c” responses _____

Interpreting Scores

If the majority of your responses were...	Your dominant learning style is...	And you probably learn best by...
“A” responses	Auditory	Hearing
“B” responses	Visual	Seeing
“C” responses	Kinesthetic	Doing



My Learning Style Reflection

Name: _____

Date: _____

My learning style is:

My learning style can be described in the following way:

Based on my learning style, some of my study habits are:

Since not every classroom may foster my learning style all the time, I can still do well in each of my classes by doing the following:

Learning Styles Mandala

Name: _____ Date: _____

