



## Creating an Environment for Learning

- Accepting diversity of learning styles help the teacher to:
  - create an environment for learning
  - make deliberate decisions about program/course/class design.
- Five ideas when identifying learning styles:
  1. Teachers need to guard against relying on teaching methods and tools that match their own preferred learning style.
  2. Teachers are most helpful when they assist learners in identifying and learning via their own learning style preferences.
  3. Learners should have the opportunity to learn via their own learning style.
  4. Learners should be encouraged to diversity their learning style preferences.
  5. Teachers can develop specific learning activities that reinforce each learning style.

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## Learning Style Models and Instruments

Instruments for assessing learners.

1. Right-brain/left-brain and whole-brain thinking
2. Field-independent/field-dependent perception
3. Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles *(Explained in later slides)*
4. Solomon and Felder Learning Styles Inventory (A 44-item survey based upon both Jung and Myers-Briggs Typology)
5. Kolb's Experiential Learning Model *(Explained in later slides)*
6. McCarthy's 4MAT System
7. Gardner's Multiple Intelligences *(Explained in later slides)*
8. VARK Learning Styles

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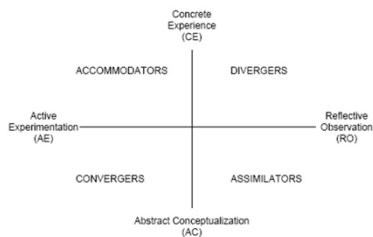
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## Kolb's Experiential Learning Model



(Image Source: <http://knol.google.com/k/hres-3277-001-employee-training-and-development/>)

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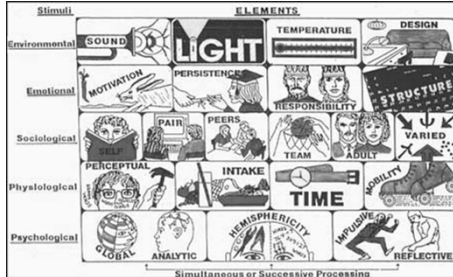
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### Dunn and Dunn Learning Styles



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### Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

- Gardner's (1999) theory of multiple intelligences;
  - Linguistic
  - Logical-mathematical
  - Spatial
  - Musical
  - Bodily kinesthetic
  - Interpersonal
  - Intrapersonal
  - Naturalistic
- Originally designed for use with children
- Can be a framework for the recognition that adults learn in different ways

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### Helpful Hints Regarding the Use of Learning Styles

Determining learners' styles:

- Do you prefer to
  - attend lectures or participate in group discussions
  - read or view a videotape/film
- Do you prefer that
  - a skill be demonstrated or "talk you through" a new procedure
- Do you give the learners the opportunity to tell you when an instructional strategy or medium is not working for them.
- Encourage learners to become aware of their learning styles and to expand their style ranges.

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## Contradictory findings regarding learning styles!

Willingham at the University of Virginia

– “we are on more equal footing than we may think when it comes to how our brains learn”

Rohrer at the University of South Florida

\_ no scientific evidence supporting learning styles

Willingham concludes that “mixing things up” boosts learners’ attention

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