**Learning Styles**

By Joanna Brightwell

What is a Learning Style?

A learning style is the predisposed way a person learns.

Dynamic Learners

(Dream Learners)

Innovative Learners

(Big Picture Learners)

Analytic Learners

(Investigate Learners)

Common Sense Learners

(Hands-On Learners)

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Innovative Learners (type 1):

* Look for the meaning..
* Need to be involved personally.
* Learn listening and sharing ideas.
* Tend to key in on motivations and developing meaning.
* Move through life by social interaction.
* Innovative learners also:
  + Are interested in people and culture
  + Are imaginative thinkers
  + Value insightful thinking
  + Work for harmony, to bring unity to diversity
  + Seek commitment
  + Enjoy observing others
  + Model themselves after those they respect
  + Want to be involved in important issues

Strengths:

* Innovation
* Imagination

Favorite Question: “Why?” or “Why not?”

Favorite Ways To Learn:

* listening
* speaking
* interacting
* brainstorming

Analytic Learners (type 2):

* Look for the facts
* Need to know what the experts think.
* Learn by thinking through ideas.
* Tend to key in on reflecting and developing concepts.
* Move through life by adapting to the experts.
* Analytic learners also:
  + Are interested in ideas and concepts more than people
  + Are data collectors and critique information
  + Value sequential thinking
  + Are thorough, industrious and like continuity
  + Enjoy traditional classrooms
  + Are uncomfortable with subjective judgments, need the details
  + Want to find self-satisfaction
  + Want intellectual recognition

Strengths:

* Creating concepts
* Producing models

Favorite Question: “What?”

Favorite Ways To Learn:

* Observing
* classifying
* Analyzing
* theorizing

Common Sense Learners (type 3):

* Look for usability.
* Need to know how things work .
* Learn by testing ideas in ways that seem sensible.
* Tend to key in on usefulness and developing skills.
* Move through life by inferences drawn from hands-on experiences.
* Common sense learners also:
  + Use factual data to build design concepts
  + Need hands-on experiences
  + Enjoy solving problems
  + Resent being given answers
  + Have limited tolerance for “fuzzy” ideas
  + Stick their judgment to concrete things or facts
  + Need to know how things they are asked to do will help in ‘real life’
  + Want to have future security through how they see things working today

Strengths:

* Practical application of ideas

Favorite Question: “How does this work?”

Favorite Ways To Learn:

* experimenting
* manipulating
* improving
* tinkering

Dynamic Learners (type 4):

* Look for the hidden possibilities.
* Need to know what can be done with things.
* Learn by trial-and-error , self-discovery.
* Tend to key in on adapting, refining, and integrating.
* Move through life by acting and testing experiences.
* Dynamic learners also:
  + Are adaptable to change and actually enjoy it
  + Like variety
  + Excel in situations calling for flexibility
  + Tend to take risks
  + Are at ease with people but sometimes are seen as pushy
  + Often reach accurate conclusions in the absence of logic
  + Want to make things happen
  + Want to turn concepts into action

Strengths:

* Taking action
* Carrying out plans

Favorite Question: “If this… then what can this become?”

Favorite Ways To Learn:

* modifying
* adapting
* risking
* creating

Preferred Activities

Dynamic Learners

(Dream Learners)

* “How can you apply this?” (personal application goals)
* “What’s another way to use this?”
* “What if?” situational exercises
* Creative projects

Innovative Learners

(Big Picture Learners)

* Stories
* Testimonies, own experiences
* Illustrations, object lessons
* Visual demonstrations

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Putting It All Together

Analytic Learners

(Investigate Learners)

* Lectures with supporting details
* Researching scriptures, references, sources
* Word studies
* Questions & answer times

Common Sense Learners

(Hands-On Learners)

* Small group activities
* Skits, role playing
* Functional projects
* Homework that follows an example in class

**Subject:** How do we know that Jesus s who he said he was?

**Activities:**

Type 1:

Ask for one or two people to share what they thought about who Jesus was the first time they heard about him.

Type 2:

Lecture on –

Resurrection

Various empty tomb theories

Why or why not the empty tomb theories could be proven true

Looked up scriptures and other historical references

Type 3:

Broke into small groups

Each group took one of the empty tomb theories to present their theory

Held a debate that included a monitor and audience determining which group was most convincing

Type 4:

Finished back in the larger group with a question, “How can you use what you learned?”

(Answers included: easier and not as scary when street witnessing; able to answer questions from friends and family; remind myself about who Jesus is when I have doubts)

The Roles of a Teacher in Learning Styles

* Innovative learners (type 1) :By **making connections** between the subject and the student’s life, the teacher **motivates** the innovative learner.
* Analytic learners (type 2) : By **directing the discussion** towards providing insight into the subject, the teacher **instructs** the analytic learner.
* Common Sense learners (type 3) :By **creating hands-on activities** that further explores the subject, the teacher **facilitates** the learning of a common sense learner.
* Dynamic learners (type 4) :By **discovering new relationships** between the subject and their life, the teacher **serves as a resource** to a dynamic learner.