

Workshop: Learning styles

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2 hours

This workshop was designed to create awareness for different learning types (Active, Reflective, Sensing, Intuitive, Sequential, Global, Visual, Verbal). We discussed why applying a variety of learning styles is important and reviewed and practiced teaching strategies to cater to each learning type in the classroom.

SUMMARY

Everyone is different. In a classroom the potential for assembling a very diverse group of people is often high and as a teacher it is important to recognize that and cater to it. In this workshop we learned about eight distinct learning types and discussed different learning styles. Although I was aware that everyone's best learning technique would be slightly different, I was not aware how distinct those differences can be and how easy it could be to cater to each style by just doing minor adjustments when presenting course material. This workshop made me more aware of different types of learners and it helped me assemble a list of example teaching strategies that I could use in my classroom.

APPLICATION

Here is a list of learning types from the workshop (including short descriptions of each type) and which learning styles I used to cater to each type in my class *BIO 295 Islands & Evolution*:

- **Active learners** understand information best by doing something active with it like discussing or applying it or explaining it to others: group work and discussions (independent project is a team project)
- **Reflective learners** prefer to think about it quietly first: homework assignments (students work by themselves outside of class)
- **Sensing learners** like learning facts: presentation of facts and definitions, case studies
- **Intuitive learners** prefer discovering possibilities and relationships: open-ended questions when introducing a new topic, group discussions, independent project involves a competition
- **Visual learners** remember best what they see: graphical representations to explain difficult concepts or methods/results of a publication/case study, heavy use of photo/video material in class, independent project is a movie
- **Verbal learners** get more out of words like written and spoken explanations: my verbal presentation of class content, class readings (book and primary literature), reference textbook readings
- **Sequential learners** gain understanding in linear steps: explaining concepts step by step
- **Global learners** absorb material more randomly without seeing connections: when guest speakers present certain parts of their research, the basics to understand these often have not (yet) been covered in class