

Learning Styles & Strategies

Strategies for Visual Learners

Key Words

Different Formats | Space | Graphs | Charts | Diagrams | Maps | Plans

Description

This preference uses symbolism and different formats, fonts, and colors to emphasize important points. It does not include video and pictures that show real images and it is not Visual merely because it is shown on a screen.

Intake (Visual learners preference for receiving information)

- Lecturers who use gestures and picturesque language
- Pictures, videos, posters, and slides
- Flowcharts
- Underlining, different colors, and highlighters
- Textbooks with diagrams and pictures
- Graphs
- Symbols and white space

SWOT – Study Without Tears (ways to study to cater to your visual style)

- Reconstruct the images in different ways – try different spatial arrangements.
- Redraw your pages from memory.
- Replace words with symbols or initials.
- Look at your pages.

Output (Visual learners preference for practice)

- Draw things, use diagrams
- Write exam answers.
- Recall the pictures made by your pages.
- Practice turning your visuals back into words.

“You want the whole picture so you are probably holistic rather than reductionist in your approach. You are often swayed by the look of an object. You are interested in color, layout, design, and you know where you are. You are probably going to draw something.”

Learning Styles & Strategies

Strategies for Aural Learners

Key Words

Listening | Discussing | Talking | Questioning | Recalling

Description

This preference is for information that is spoken or heard, and the use of questioning is an important part of a learning strategy for those with this preference.

Intake (Aural learners preference for receiving information)

- Attend classes
- Attend discussions and tutorials
- Discuss topics with others
- Discuss topics with your professors
- Explain new ideas to other people
- Use a tape recorder
- Remember the interesting examples, stories, jokes, etc
- Describe the overheads, pictures, and other visuals to somebody who was not there
- Leave spaces in your notes for later recall and 'filling'

SWOT – Study Without Tears (ways to study to cater to your aural style)

- Your notes may be poor because you prefer to listen. You will need to expand your notes by talking with others and collecting notes from the textbook.
- Put your summarized notes onto tapes and listen to them.
- Ask others to 'hear' your understanding of a topic.
- Read your summarized notes aloud.
- Explain your notes to another 'aural' person.

Output (Aural learners preference for practice)

- Imagine talking with the professor.
- Listen to your voices and write them down.
- Spend time in quiet places recalling the ideas.
- Practice writing answers to old exam questions.
- Speak your answers aloud or inside your head.

“You prefer to have this page explained to you. The written words are not as valuable as those you hear. You will probably go and tell somebody about this.”

Learning Styles & Strategies

Strategies for Read/Write Learners

Key Words

Lists | Notes | Text in All Formats

Description

This preference uses the printed word as the most important way to convey and receive information.

Intake (Read/write learners preference for receiving information)

- Lists
- Headings
- Dictionaries
- Glossaries
- Definitions
- Handouts
- Textbooks
- Readings – library
- Notes (often verbatim)
- Professors who use words well and have lots of information in sentences and notes
- Essays
- Manuals (computing and laboratory)

SWOT – Study Without Tears (ways to study to cater to your read/write style)

- Write out the words again and again.
- Read your notes (silently) again and again.
- Rewrite the ideas and principles into other words.
- Organize any diagrams, graphs into statements (i.e., The trend is...).
- Turn reactions, actions, diagrams, charts, and flows into words.
- Imagine your lists arranged in multiple choice questions and distinguish each from each.

Output (Read/write learners preference for practice)

- Write exam answers.
- Practice with multiple choice questions.
- Write paragraphs, beginnings and endings.
- Write your lists.
- Arrange your words into hierarchies and points.

“You like this page because the emphasis is on words and lists. You believe the meanings are within the words, so any talk is ok but this handout is better. You are heading for the library.”

Learning Styles & Strategies

Strategies for Kinesthetic Learners

Key Words

Senses | Practical Exercises | Examples | Cases | Trial & Error

Description

This preference uses your experiences and the things that are real even when they are shown in pictures and on screens.

Intake (Kinesthetic learners preference for receiving information)

- All your senses – sight, touch, taste, smell, and hearing
- Laboratories
- Field trips
- Field tours
- Examples of principles
- Lecturers who give real-life examples
- Applications
- Hands-on approaches (computing)
- Trial & error
- Collections of rock types, plants, shells, grasses, etc.
- Exhibits, samples, and photographs
- Recipes – solutions to problems, previous exam papers

SWOT – Study Without Tears (ways to study to cater to your kinesthetic style)

- Your lecture notes may be poor because the topics were not ‘concrete’ or ‘relevant.’
- You will remember the ‘real’ things that happened.
- Put plenty of examples into your summary. Use case studies and applications to help with principles and abstract concepts.
- Talk about your notes with another ‘K’ person.
- Use pictures and photographs that illustrate an idea.
- Go back to the laboratory or your lab manual.
- Recall the experiments, field trips, etc.

Output (Kinesthetic learners preference for practice)

- Write practice answers, paragraphs, etc.
- Role play the exam situation in your own room.

“You want to experience the exam so that you can understand it. The ideas on this page are only valuable if they sound practical, real, and relevant to you. You need to do things to understand.”