

Learning Styles

The learning styles approach to education focuses on the fact that individuals perceive and process information in very different ways. The learning styles theory implies that all students are capable of learning and that educational success has more to do with whether or not the educational experience is geared toward their particular style of learning than whether or not they are "smart."

Junge's concept of learning styles is rooted in the classification of psychological types. The learning styles theory is based on research demonstrating that, as the result of heredity, upbringing, and current environmental demands, different individuals have a tendency to both perceive and process information differently. How one best perceives information, how one makes judgments as part of the learning process, and one's general attitude toward life all impact on learning.

Perceptions:

Sensing – These are concrete learners who absorb information through direct experience – by doing, acting, sensing or feeling.

Feeling – These are abstract learners who take in information through analysis, observation, and thinking.

Judgements:

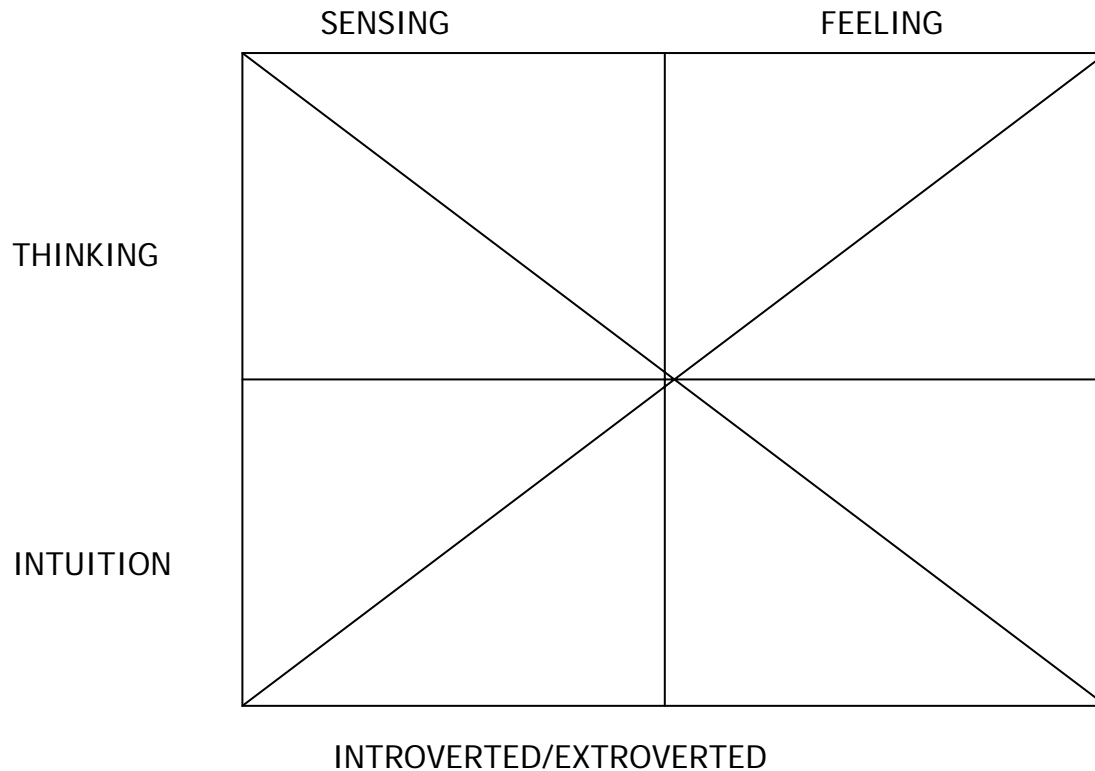
Intuition – These are learners who make sense of an experience by immediately using the new information.

Thinking – These learners make sense of an experience by reflecting on and thinking about it.

Attitudes Toward Life

Introversion

Extroversion



Traditional classroom educational methodologies tends to favor abstract perceiving and reflective processing. Other kinds of learning aren't rewarded and reflected in curriculum, instruction, and assessment nearly as much.

Learning Styles Theory and It's Impact on Education

Educators need to place emphasis on methods that address as many of the eight learning styles as possible. While it may be difficult to address every learning style in every activity, the utilization of differing styles will add both a dynamic aspect to the classroom while addressing the needs of differing learners.

Teachers should design their instruction methods to connect with all eight learning styles arenas, using various combinations of experience, reflection, conceptualization, and experimentation. Instructors can introduce a wide variety of experiential elements into the classroom, such as sound, music, visuals, movement, experience, and even talking. By utilizing a variety of instructional methods and including the use of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic activities, the learner will better be able to gather information in a manner best suited to the way in which they learn and retain best. Based on the use of differing instructional methods, instructors should then employ a variety of assessment techniques, focusing on the development of "whole brain" capacity and each of the different learning styles

Learning Styles Resources:

http://www.funderstanding.com/learning_styles.cfm

Silver, H and Hanson, J. "Learning Styles and Strategies. Silver Strong and Associates
Woodbridge, NJ. 1996.