

APPENDIX J: (SECTION 7)

LEARNING STYLE INDEX

PERCEPTION

Sensory Learners:

- Prefer concrete, practical and procedural information.

Sensory learners look for the facts and like to use their sensory skills to get information. Sensory learners learn best when they understand how the information you are teaching applies to a real life situation and understand why they need to know something. They like repetition and seeing a variety of different examples.

Intuitive Learners

- Prefer conceptual, innovative, and theoretical.

Intuitive learners look for the meaning and like to see how concepts link together. They enjoy using their imagination, like theoretical models, and get bored with too many examples.

Intuitive learners learn best when there is a lot of variety and they have time to think about how things work.

PROCESSING

Active Learners

- Prefer to manipulate objects, do physical experiments, and learn by doing.

Active learners enjoy working in groups to figure out problems. They learn best by touching.

They understand directions that they write and will learn best through manipulating objects.

They'll learn best by: drawing, playing board games, making dioramas, making models, following instructions to make something, etc.

Reflective Learners

- Prefer to think about things before making a decision.

They prefer to gather all of the information they can and have time to “sleep on it.” For reflective learners, collecting information is an important part of the process. There is never “too much” information. Reflective learners learn best by: researching information, looking up facts, and having time to think about what they are learning.

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INPUT

Visual Learners

- Prefer graphs, pictures, and diagrams.

Visual learners look for visual representation of information. They will be able to recall what they see and will prefer written instructions. These students are sight readers who enjoy reading silently. Better yet, present information to them with a video. Visual learners will learn by observing and enjoy working with the following: computer graphics, maps, graphs, charts, cartoons, posters, diagrams, graphic organizers, text with a lot of pictures, etc.

Verbal Learners

- Prefer to hear or read information.

Verbal learners look for explanations with words. They will be able to recall what they hear and will prefer oral instructions. They learn by listening and speaking. These students enjoy talking and interviewing. Verbal learners enjoy oral reading, choral reading, and listening to recorded books. They learn best by doing the following: interviewing, debating, participating on a panel, giving oral reports, participating in oral discussions of written material, etc.

UNDERSTANDING

Sequential Learners

- Prefer to plan and organize work.

Sequential learners focus on details and are logical. They prefer to work individually on activity sheets. Sequential learners learn best when: information is presented in sequential steps, lessons are structured and teacher-directed, goals are clear, requirements are spelled out, etc.

Global Learners

- Prefer information to be presented in an interesting manner, using attractive materials.

Global learners are spontaneous and intuitive. They do not like to be bored. They prefer cooperative learning strategies where they learn as a team. Global learners learn best through: choral reading, recorded books, story writing, computer programs, games, group activities, etc. Understanding the learning styles of your participants can help you become a better teacher and help participants learn the content in a way that works best for them. In working with different learning styles, balance is key. One should not teach too far on any one side of the learning continuum. When you do that, you limit people's ability to take in new information and make sense of it quickly, accurately, and effectively. Take time to identify how you prefer to learn and how your participants prefer to learn. By understanding various learning styles, you can create a training strategy that incorporates a variety of different techniques that will be acceptable to participants. At times, you may want to challenge your group to move out of the comfort zone. Once you start learning and teaching in new ways you'll be amazed at how much more participants catch on and how much easier it is to assimilate information and make sense of what is going on.