

Learning Styles Transcript

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Everyone has preferences about something.

The kind of movies we like the kind of

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food we like even how we prefer to learn.

Preferences in learning are

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called learning styles. Many groups have

been encouraging teachers to determine

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each student's learning style and adjust

their teaching accordingly. So

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for example, a student who is a visual learner

will be taught using illustrations,

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a student who is an auditory learner would

be taught using spoken lectures, and a

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student who said the existentialist

style would be taught by using their own

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interpretation. Wait what? It's true. We're not kidding. An existential learning

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style has been added to the list and no doubt by folks who want to profit on

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parents and students love of learning styles. Despite the intuitive appeal of

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teaching to learning styles,

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not a single investigation has shown that it matters at all. In fact, just a

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bit of reflection suggests that while teaching to a particular style is a bad

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idea. For instance, if a student is a visual learner common sense indicates

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that learning to speak a foreign language by merely reading it is less

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effective than listening to it. Sure, students
like all of us have references. Students

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may prefer eating sweets but only
feeding them sugar won't lead to good

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health outcomes. They're often strategies
that evidence show are more effective

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for teaching different kinds of content.
So you may want to adapt your teaching

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style to what you want your students to
learn, not how they prefer to learn it.

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Teaching to Learning Styles - it's not
evidence-base, and it doesn't seem to work