Eight Ways of Learning Anything

Respecting the Eight Intelligences During Training

The theory of multiple intelligences has strong implications for adult learning and development. If a presenter is having difficulty reaching a student in the more traditional linguistic or logical ways of instruction, the theory of multiple intelligences suggests several other ways in which the material might be presented to facilitate effective learning. Whether you are a kindergarten teacher, a graduate school instructor, or a professional developer seeking ways to maximize teaching and learning, addressing the intelligences will be beneficial.

INTELLIGENCE	STRENGTHS	KEY QUESTION	STRATEGIES
Linguistic: Read and/or write about the subject and discuss it with others.	Writing Reading Memory Listening Vocabulary	How can the spoken and/or written word be most powerfully used during training?	*As you discover strategies respectful of each intelligence, note them in this column.*
Mathematical: Approach the subject logically to analyze for patterns; classifications of information.	Inquisitive Computation Seek logical explanations Find patterns Look for relationships	How can facts, figures, research and analysis be used during training?	
Spatial: Make sketches, drawings, and diagrams to visualize the information.	Clear visual images Read maps, diagrams Draw, build, design	How can color, illustrations, drawings or other visuals be used to enhance training?	
Musical: Create songs, chants, rhymes, music or poetry to illustrate points or to play as background music during learning or reflection.	Sing, hum, whistle, tap Sensitive to rythym	How might music or rhyme be used as a memory hook during training?	
Kinesthetic: Enact the knowledge through movement or physical routine such as role play or construct a model of the information.	Excellent gross/fine motor skills Learn by touching	How can movement be best incorporated during training? Are there hands-on approaches that would prove effective?	
Interpersonal: Work in pairs, teams or small groups.	Seek and give counsel Lead and motivate others Skilled at understanding others	How can team or group activities be used during training?	
Intrapersonal: Connect it to a previous or personal experience.	Spend time alone Reflection Independent-minded	How can opportunities for reflection and processing be incorporated during training?	
Naturalist: Atentive to patterns and characteristics in the environment and sensitive to surroundings.	Attentive Find patterns Sensitive to climate	What climate do I need to create for maximized learning? How can I respect sensitivities and what ground rules will require everyone to respect sensitivities.	

PROFESSIONAL
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