See it. Hear it. Do it.

What Can We Learn from Learning Styles?
Outline

- Learning Outcome: To understand our own learning style (LS) and how learners may differ in their orientation to learning
- Learn about different types of LS inventories
- Review of the Felder LSI
Classifying Learning Styles

- Perceptual Modalities
- Information Processing
- Personality Patterns
Perceptual Modalities

- Based on reactions to our physical environment
- Represent the way we learn new materials
  - Visual, auditory, kinesthetic, multi-modal
Information Processing

- The processing of new information through:
  - Perception
  - Organization
  - Retention
Personality Patterns

- Our attention, emotion, and values
- The way we are likely to react to new information (or different situations)
See it.

- Visual learners – how they learn
  - Learn best through seeing.
  - Verbal stimuli: relate most effectively to material presented in written language format.
  - Nonverbal stimuli: relate most effectively to material presented in picture of design format.
  - Often rely on body language and facial expressions to understand the content of a lesson (hint: they sit at the front of the classroom)
About 60% of the population are seeing it.
Hear it.

- **Verbal or Auditory learners – how they learn**
  - Learn best through verbal lectures, discussion, talking things through and listening to what others say.
  - Interpret the underlying meaning of speech through listening to tone of voice, pitch, speed and other nuances.
About 30% of the population are hearing it.
Do it.

The Kinesthetic Learner – how they learn

– Learn best through a hands-on approach, actively exploiting the physical world around them.
– Kinesthetic: learning process engages the body
– Tactile: learning process engages the sense of touch
– Assimilate skills through imitation and practice.
About 5% of the population are doing it.
Felder: Active versus reflective learners

- ACTIVE: Learn by doing--discussing and applying ideas or talking to others
  - Like group work, problem-solving
  - “Let’s try it out”

- REFLECTIVE: Learn by thinking things through quietly
  - Like to work on own and find it helpful to write summaries of material or come up with possible applications
  - “Let’s make sure we’ve thought this through”
Felder: Sensing vs Intuitive learners

- SENSING: Like learning facts and solving problems by well-established methods—no surprises—good at memorizing facts—likes lab work—"How does this relate to the real world"

- INTUITIVE: Like discovering possibilities and relationships—like innovation and dislike repetition—likes abstract thinking—good at math formulas—work quickly
  - "All we did was plug and chug assignments"
Felder: Visual vs Verbal

- **VISUAL:** Learn best what they see
  - Like diagrams, flow charts or videos—colour code or highlight notes “Show me the systems you are talking about”

- **VERBAL:** Learn from words (written or spoken)
  - Learn best when write summaries in your own words—learn well in groups by teaching others
  - “Explain what is going on inside the system”
Felder: Sequential vs global

- **SEQUENTIAL**: Follow logical stepwise paths to solutions
  - Take the time to outline the lecture material (fill in the gaps) “I need to focus on one step of the project before going on to the next”

- **GLOBAL**: Learn in large jumps—need to see the big picture before you can master details
  - So skim reading material first—immerse yourself in one subject for large blocks of time—may have difficulty explaining to others how you got the answer—”I need to see how this all fits together before I can begin”
Teaching Perspectives Inventory

- 5 common perspectives on teaching adults
- Look at the sheet of results to see which is your dominant perspective
- Check for internal consistency between Beliefs, Intentions and Actions
Questions to Discipline Groups

- How similar are you to one another?
- How might your LS effect how you teach?
- Do you think you learn the way your students learn?
- How might your LS effect how your students learn?
- How might you change your teaching style to be more inclusive of learner needs?
- What perspective on teaching do you bring to your teaching? (see TPI scores)
Learning Style Inventories

- Perceptual Modalities
  - Vark Learning
  - Auditory, Visual, or Tactile Processing
  - Felder Index of Learning Styles
Learning Style Inventories

- Information Processing
  - Multiple Intelligences Approach
  - Kolb Learning Style Inventory
Learning Style Inventories

- Personality Patterns
  - Keirsey Temperament Sorter