

Running Head: THE PERSONAL TOOLS

The Personal Tools of Learning Style

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### Abstract

This paper outlines the scores I received from the learning styles test required and my reflections on those scores and their meaning. Included also is my analization of learning activities and formats for specific learning styles. The types of learning resources being utilized or their possibilities in online courses is also discussed.

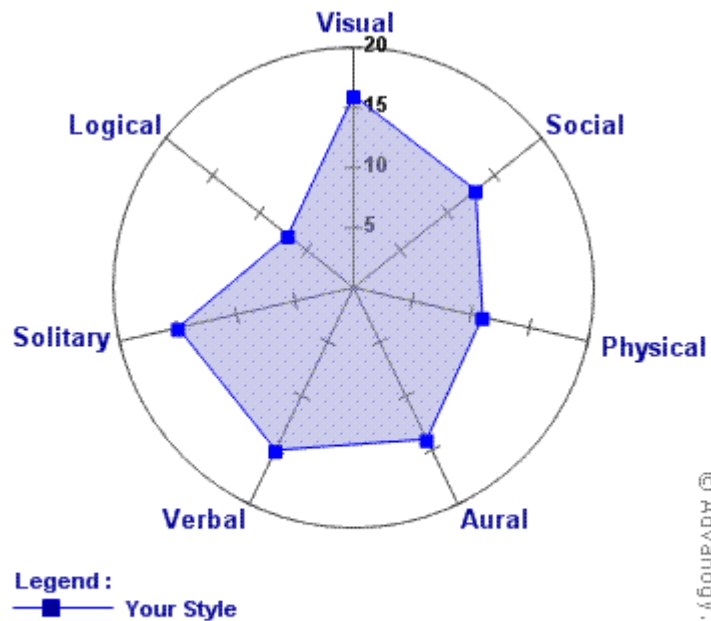
Established learning styles are interesting and valuable learning/teaching tools. Discovering your own strongest learning styles can help you discover ways to best retain information while studying. In this paper I will discuss what I discovered about my own learning styles, express the differences between myself and the average person, analyze some learning activities and formats that match those styles, and explain how the MATLT and online environment is helpful to my learning process.

I found the results of my learning style test interesting and a bit surprising. These were my results from the assigned website, <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/> (Advanology, 2003-2007):

**Style Scores**

Visual	16
Social	13
Physical	11
Aural	14
Verbal	15
Solitary	15
Logical	7

**Memletic Learning Styles Graph:**



Most of my scores were nearer the top score of twenty, except in the Logical category and Physical was only one point above the midpoint of ten. It seems that my strongest learning style would be Visual; however, Aural, Verbal, Solitary, and Social were only slightly below. My lowest score being the Logical category did surprise me, as I have always been very good at mathematics. I honestly believed that my Physical score might have been lower as I do not feel I have much kinetic intelligence. I have always been a bit on the clumsy side and have never been good at sports. I was curious and really would have liked to

know how my scores compared to the norm, but I could not afford to become a member of the site and could not find another free source of that information. While on my search for average learning styles I did find a site with some interesting statements. The LearningSuccess™ Institute states on their website “at least 60% of the population are picture and hands-on learners.” (LearningSuccess™ Institute, 2008) This would mean that the majority of students seem to be visual and physical learners. I suppose that one could assume that ten would be an average score on the Memletic Learning Styles chart. If that is the case, then it would seem that on a whole my types of learning styles rate a bit higher and that I have an easier time learning regardless of the teaching style. I also tend to study alone, unless otherwise required and sometimes read to myself aloud if I feel I am having trouble assimilating the information. This seems to be correct as I have always had top grades regardless of how I felt about the style in which the information is presented.

Different learning styles require information to be presented different ways for best retention. Visual learners, like myself, prefer learning visually. This means they process information best when presented with pictures and graphics such as graphs, maps, and illustrations. Visual learners remember information as a mental image. For a MATLA program student or a student of an online course information would best be presented in an attractive, colorful way and possibly be required to return what was learned in a similar way. The internet is a great place for visual learners. It is able to provide expensive classroom tools such as video equipment and traditionally paper printed products such as textbooks, worksheets, and tests, while able to produce a more visually stimulating experience with all the possibility of video and graphics in a wide spectrum of color. Many times it can also be adjusted by the viewer to his/her preferences; such as larger text sizes for the visually impaired, a better suited text color for more comfortable reading, and audio for those who do not have the time or the ability to read quickly. Also the ability to copy and move information from one document to another very quickly is an advantage that should not be overlooked.

The online environment is the ideal way to learn for a solitary learner. Computers are generally used individually and this gives a solitary learner, like myself, the isolation needed to concentrate and process the information. Solitary or intrapersonal learners are very aware of the thinking process and tend to analyze and reflect on information. I find this is certainly true of myself. An online course gives the student the opportunity and freedom to study and learn when it is most convenient in his/her schedule to study alone. Depending on the student's individual situation, he/she is usually able to adjust the whole physical environment to best suit their environmental learning preference. For instance, if one prefers listening to music while studying, he/she can do that in the privacy of their own home while not disturbing others in their class. Assuming most people enrolled in an online course have a personal computer, an online student can choose the size and color of the room and amount of personal space comfortable to their own tastes. This reduces the amount of environmental factors that might inhibit their learning.

By discovering my own strongest learning styles I have learned how I best absorb information and so can adjust my habits and environment to accommodate a more productive level of learning. This information is also helpful in that I can also try to avoid learning situations in which I might have a difficult time absorbing the information. As an instructor, this information would be invaluable in presenting subject matter in a manner each student can best grasp. In this paper I have discussed what I discovered about my own learning styles, expressed the differences between myself and the average person as I understand the scores, analyzed some learning activities and formats that match those styles, and explained how the MATLT and online environment is helpful to my learning process. Knowing and utilizing these learning styles are extremely valuable tools that can make learning/teaching entirely more interesting and retainable.

References:

Learning Styles Online. (2003-2007). Discover your Learning Styles - Graphically! Retrieved August 15, 2008, from: <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/inventory/>

LearningSuccess<sup>TM</sup> Institute. (2008). *Did you know that mid-life crisis begins in kindergarten?* Retrieved August 16, 2008, from: <http://learningsuccessinstitute.com/index.html>