Learning Style Inventory

(Or Discovering How I Learn Best)

OBJECTIVES

Human beings possess five senses -- seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting and smelling. We use these senses to acquire information about the world around us. But we do not all necessarily rely on these senses in the same way or to the same degree. This is also true in the acquisition of knowledge.

To gain a better understanding of yourself as a learner you need to evaluate the way you prefer to learn. We all should develop a learning style which will enhance our learning potential. The following evaluation, based on the "Barsch Learning Style Inventory," is a short, quick way of assessing your learning style. Thus, the objectives for this study guide are:

- 1. to gain an understanding of the basic learning styles;
- 2. to assess your own learning style; and,
- 3. to offer some study hints appropriate for your learning style.

ASSESSING YOUR LEARNING STYLE

Place a check on the appropriate line after each statement.

		Often	Sometimes	Seldom
1.	I can remember more about a subject through listening than reading			
2.	I follow written directions better than oral directions.			
3.	I like to write things down or take notes for later review.			
4.	I bear down extremely hard with pen or pencil when writing.			
5.	I need oral explanations of charts, diagrams, graphs, or other visual materials.			
6.	I enjoy working with tools.			
7.	I am skillful with, and enjoy developing or making, charts, graphs, and diagrams.			

8.	I can tell if sounds match when presented with a pair of sounds.		
9.	I remember best by writing things down several times.		
10.	I can easily understand and follow directions on maps.		
11.	I do better at academic subjects by listening to lectures and tapes.		
12.	I play with coins or keys in my pockets or fidget with objects in my hands.		
13.	I learn to spell better by repeating the letters out loud than by writing the word on paper.		
14.	I can better understand a news article by reading it in the paper than by listening to the radio.		
15.	I like to chew gum, smoke, or snack while studying.		
16.	I feel the best way to remember is to picture it in my head.		
17.	I learn spelling by tracing or "finger spelling" the words.		
18.	I would rather listen to a good lecture or speech than read about the same material in a textbook.		
19.	I am good at working and solving jigsaw puzzles, mazes, etc.		
20.	I like to grip objects in my hands during study periods.		
21.	I prefer to listen to the news on the radio rather than reading about it in the newspaper.		
22.	I obtain information on an interesting subject by reading relevant materials.		
23.	I feel comfortable touching others, hugging, handshaking, etc.		
24.	I can follow spoken directions better than written ones.		

DETERMINING YOUR PREFERENCE SCORE

Match your responses to the questions above with the corresponding item number below. Place the point value on the line next to the number. Finally, add the points in each column to obtain the preference scores under each heading. For example, if you responded to question number one with a "Sometimes," then place a three (3) beside the No. 1 in the middle column.

OFTEN = 5 points SOMETIMES = 3 points SELDOM = 1 point

VISUAL		AUDITORY		TACTUAL	
No.	Points	No.	Points	No.	Points
2		1		4	
3		5		6	
7		8		9	
10		11		12	
14		13		15	
16		18		17	
20		21		19	
22		24		23	
VPS =		APS =		TPS =	

VPS = Visual Preference Score; APS = Auditory Preference Score;

TPS = Tactual Preference Score

HOW TO USE THIS INFORMATION

Discuss your score with your tutor, the tutoring supervisor, or your counselor. They will be able to make suggestions to you regarding the most effective use of your study time and effort. This form should be used in conjunction with other diagnostic tools to help you determine some of the best learning methods for you. You may want to discuss these methods with your tutor.

APPROPRIATE STUDY METHODS

If "visual preference" is your highest score, then you are probably a visual learner. This means that you should make every effort to <u>see</u> what you study. Look carefully at your instructor. Copy everything they write on the board. Use charts and graphs, develop clear and concise notes, use flashcards. Use whatever pictures or VCR tapes which may be available for this course in the Learning Resource Center. Write out everything for frequent and quick visual review. Trying to diagram or chart materials may be especially helpful in detecting the relationships among material and remembering it for later recall.

If "auditory preference" is your highest score, then you are probably an auditory learner. This means that you should make every effort to <u>hear</u> what you study. Sit near the front of the classroom so that you can easily hear your instructor. Tape the class lectures, if possible, for later review. Try taping your own study notes or summaries of material. Study in a place where you can read your text or notes out loud. Studying by repeating information with a 'study buddy' may help.

If "tactual preference" is your highest score, then you are probably a tactile learner. This means that you should make every effort to feel what you study. You might learn vocabulary words by tracing them with your finger as you repeat them. Taking and keeping lecture notes will by very important to you. Facts which must be learned should be written several times. Keep a supply of scratch paper handy just for this purpose. This permits you to "feel" the information. You may be especially good in courses where you learn by doing, such as the "hands on" experience in chemistry lab, child care, or computer classes.

If your various scores are close together, then you may be able to learn by any and all of the suggestions offered above. Try all the suggestions from time to time. What works best for you in one course may not work best in others.

Handout developed by Dr. Richard Oliver Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) San Antonio College, 1995.