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Do you know your child's learning style ?

"To pass your course you must study and work hard."

This traditional advice that has been given to students for several decades is now being diluted by advances in science and cognitive psychology. Indeed, new research shows that there are many ways to learn and some techniques are more effective than others.

This traditional advice should therefore be replaced by a more modern version: "To succeed in the course, the student needs a STRATEGIC approach in his learning, his studies and his preparation for exams."

It is not only the DNA molecule that is specific to a student, but his way of learning. A student's learning style represents the method by which he/she learns best. Subsequently, knowing the learning style becomes, for the pupil, an accelerator pedal for storing information quickly and assimilating the material being taught.

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LIGHT THOUGHT

A student's learning style represents the method by which he/she learns best

The latest studies in educational psychology now make it possible to fragment the learning style of students into 4 main categories: auditory, visual, kinesthetic and reading-writing.

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1) **The auditory category** includes students who learn best by listening and who easily retain information or instructions when presented in verbal form.

2) **The visual category** corresponds to students who greatly benefit from diagrams or videos that illustrates the material taught. Oral instruction of more than 3 steps requires visual support to facilitate retention. It should be noted that 65% of the student population is considered in the visual category (Dun Rita, 1992)

3) **The kinesthetic category** includes students who learn best through science experiments, manipulative activities, or simply by moving.

4) **The reading-writing category** is restricted to independent students who assimilate the material better during reading. They prefer to learn by reading textbooks and rewriting their notes in their own words.

It is possible that a student's learning is based on a combination of two or three styles. However the style that is predominant is the one that will allow you to understand and absorb the material more easily.

STRATÉGIE APPLIQUÉE

Now let's see how to apply this strategy in a classroom or training setting.

• If the student has an auditory learning style then he should sit at the front of the class or at a distance that will allow him to fully listen to his teacher's lesson without being distracted by their friends. He can also use his smartphone to record certain parts of the lesson and listen to the teaching at home.

• If the student has a visual learning style, then he should be sure to copy the lecture notes using different colours and including the diagrams presented in class. Also, if this has not been done in class, he should ask his teacher if he has a video that summarizes the historical event or scientific concept that was presented in class. In the case of mathematics, he can begin his problem solving by making an illustrated representation of the problem which will increase the efficiency of his brain's reasoning. A complete solution method (Light Guide 1) is on sale in our online store for regular and advanced students.

• If the student has a kinesthetic learning style, then he can volunteer for class demonstrations. In addition, science labs and math manipulative exercises provide time for optimal learning.

• If the student learns by reading and writing then he must ensure that he has the textbook for his course and knows the specific chapters that will be assessed. After his teacher's instruction, he can read the chapter and make a summary by writing notes in his own words.

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References

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