

Discovering Your Learning Style

Everyone learns differently. We have known this for years. Nevertheless, too many teachers and courses only deliver instruction in one way. Consequently, a student may fail to learn, and he or she feels incapable of learning.

Understanding your own learning style can help you create learning experiences tailored to your own personality. My sister is an auditory learner. When she was in college, I would read the textbook chapters into a tape recorder (remember them) so she could play them later.

We will attempt to create a variety of learning experiences for you during the progress of this course.

Auditory Learning

The auditory learner learns best when listening to something. Their eyes will often wander when watching an instructional video or listening to a lecture. People who learn this way, often learn best while playing an audio recording or an audio-rich video recording in the background while doing chores or exercising. These activities should be of a type that does not require a great deal of mental concentration, though. We will be including audio lessons in this course to help you learn.

Visual Learner

The Second type of learner is the visual learner. They respond best to visual stimulation like videos and graphics. They often respond best to PowerPoint presentations, video lessons, and may learn more from a PBS special on the Middle Ages than by reading a book on the subject. We will be including some videos in this course when appropriate. Video lessons will begin the second week of January and should appear at a rate of one every week to ten days.

Literary Learner

The Literary Learner learns best from books and articles. Reading is their pathway to knowledge. However, some people who enjoy reading for pleasure, don't always learn well from the printed page. Literary learners will seek out books, articles, or text-based online materials. If they find a web page with both a video and text, they will skip past the video and just read the text.

In this course, we will include text-based lessons as both MS-Word (docx) and Portable Document Format (pdf) files. You can read the PDF file online or download it. However, these files are covered by copyright, and you may only use them for your personal study and not share copies with others without obtaining permission from me. Email me at webservant2003@gmail.com for information about making copies.

Participatory Learning

This is also known as "hands-on" learning. These people learn best by completing practical exercises leading to some end product. Most of us do learn by doing to a certain extent. Even those who learn from one of the three other learning modalities solidify that learning by making application of what they learn.

In this course, you will have exercises for each lesson. We have a Facebook group where you can post your responses. It also helps to critique others. I will also provide critiques for your exercises. Of course, the big project for this course is completing the first draft of your novel in 100 days. I will provide you with a critique of the first 20,000 word of your novel at the end of this course.

What's Your Learning Style?

I probably should say styles. Many of us learn best with a combination of styles. And we learn some things better through one modality, and other things through another. I tend to learn tech stuff best by watching video tutorials or reading well illustrated text-based ones. However, when it comes to content-rich material like history, I learn best by reading. And physical or academic skills I learn best by doing.

Now you have a sense of your learning style, let's look at planning styles.

EXERCISE:

Think back over your educational experiences both formal and informal. In what ways did you learn best? What modalities do you think will work best learning to write a novel? Why do you feel that way? Write a short 100-200 word blurb addressing these questions and post it in our Facebook Group.