

Variety:

"We need to provide our students with activities that are innovative and challenging as well as purposeful if we want them to be engaged in learning."

~Julie Thompson

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn."

~Benjamin Franklin

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

~William Butler Yeats

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

~George Washington Carver

--It is crucial to **vary what and how things are done in class**, from the groupings students are broken into, to the teaching methods used, to the strategies students are taught, and the assessment styles used. What is ideal for one student is not ideal for the person next to them. Therefore, it is crucial you do not work within your comfort zone; that will only accommodate a percentage of your students. Education is not *one size fits all* (although the standards are).

--Teachers must vary learning strategies to not only accommodate different learning styles, but also to help each student build a tool box, or repertoire, of strategies they can use whenever they feel stuck. Limited strategies do not make for easier problem solving.

--It is effective to future learning if students are familiar with how they learn best. The different learning styles include visual/spacial, aural/auditory, verbal/linguistic, physical/kinesthetic, logical/mathematical, social/interpersonal, and solitary/intrapersonal learning styles. ⁹⁹

A great website to describe each learning style is:

Discover Your Learning Styles

<https://www.educationcorner.com/learning-styles.html>

A great source for additional information on learning styles, how this knowledge can increase academic achievement, and both online and printable self-tests is:

Learning Styles and Learning Styles Inventories

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/ace/lis.aspx>

--Make sure learning includes writing, thinking, listening, observing, and speaking skills.¹⁰⁰ Include as many of these as you can, as often as you can, so students are comfortable with each of these skills and are forced out of their comfort zone.

--Allow students to share final products with their class in a chosen format whenever possible, such as: an oral presentation, an iMovie, a song/rap, a poem, a Power Point, a poster or drawing, a commercial...allow for creativity and self-expression.¹⁰¹

--Learning should build on strengths, interests, and needs. It should be active, goal-oriented, self-regulated, and a student should feel personally responsible and invested.¹⁰² Learning **resources** should be vast and varied and can include other students, teachers, family, the community, and the world around us. **Lessons** need to be diversified so that all students can see themselves in your lessons and feel they have a place in your class.¹⁰³ You should avoid long lectures, but rather let students play an active role in their learning, hands-on learning is best! Use some lecture, but also utilize collaborative learning and have kids work with partners and in small groups. Utilize small group collaboration with everyone having a job (i.e. reader, recorder, presenter); this is a great way to share key ideas. Learning effective group work is a necessary

¹⁰⁰ Moyer, 2012

¹⁰¹ Moyer, 2012

¹⁰² Reynolds, 2006

¹⁰³ Saphier, 2017

life skill. Allow stronger students to teach students who have not mastered the concept **yet**.

**A great site for teachers with articles, tips, and self-assessments on: study tips, motivation, self-esteem, concentration, procrastination, learning styles, and math study skills is:

www.how-to-study.com