

Learning becomes accelerated, fun, authentic and effective when you help your students personally explore the landscape of new material through their intelligence sets rather than in lock-step, mono-mode, one-to-many learning activities.

Student POV

Explorers of all types usually have a say in how they plan to reach their destination and so should learners in the exploration stage. Students need coaching and their learning problems need diagnosing rather than a content expert telling them everything they need to know. They need choices; not everyone will take the same exploratory learning path.

Thus, students feel put off and alienated by instructors who present material in only one intelligence mode such as linguistic or one sensory mode such as audio. Traditional teaching assumed everyone learned the same way and pure lecture was good enough for everyone.

If the multiple intelligences theory championed by Dr. Howard Gardner of Harvard University, *Frames of Mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences*, 1985, is correct, then students learn better when they explore the subject that they are learning using multiple intelligences.

Instructor POV

With physical development, one cannot rapidly develop without learning the best exercises to use to build specific physical skills. A skilled coach will analyze the current physical skill level and create a program to move the person to a new level of adroitness and competence.

The same process works in learning. The teacher as coach assesses the current level of academic skill and then creates and tailors a learning program that works with each student and helps them optimize their learning.



◆ Explorers thrive on choices and the ability to apply knowledge to new situations. The exploration phase of learning should be customized to each student's cognitive preferences and strengths. This strategy energizes learning, saves time and optimizes outcomes.

Therefore, in addition to teaching content you should design a range of challenging assignments and exercises that will help learners explore the material in a manner consistent with their special weave of intelligences.

You can use Dr. Gardner's intelligence categories as a guide. They are:

- Linguistic.
- Mathematical/Logical.
- Visual/Spatial.
- Musical.
- Interpersonal.
- Intrapersonal.
- Bodily/Physical.

Besides recognizing multiple intelligences, you can improve the Exploration phase of learning by helping your students:

- Identify assumptions.
- Discern the evidence of credibility.
- Create metaphorical visuals and examples.
- Focus on what's important.
- Select and solve key problems.

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