



Adding Multisensory Learning to Your Lesson Plan

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The second step in basic lesson design is the input of new knowledge. To get a handle on this step, you should:

- Describe the learner in terms of prior experience, current academic skills and learning goals.
- Define the course content.
- Identify specific objectives.
- Logically group the content.
- Shape the knowledge segments into multisensory learning activities.



To help all your students more quickly learn course content, shape your teaching so that students have the opportunity to see, hear and use the core facts, principles and concepts unique to your course. It's crucial to build an option pool of multisensory learning activities that put the course content to work. Students are challenged and motivated when given the opportunity to produce real, useful products (informational as well as physical) with the knowledge they gain.

If you limit presentations to 15 to 20 minutes, you will have the class time to involve students in more physical, auditory and visual learning experiences, and you'll find shorter sessions are less fatiguing and more interesting for your students and easier to prepare for you. The possibilities for multisensory learning activities are endless and only limited by your creativity.

For example, visual learners gain from handouts, pamphlets, resource and reference readings, graphs, charts, outlines, learning maps, Venn diagrams, video clips, and computer-generated graphics from animations to simple images. Physical, kinesthetic learners enjoy handling physical objects, giving demonstrations and participating in role plays, games, or simulations.

Auditory learners benefit from creating and performing plays, skits, dramatic readings, poems, raps, jingles, and even songs. Students with an auditory preference also profit from paraphrasing text material with a study buddy.

When you give students a variety of multisensory learning activities, you are teaching for success!