FROM LEARNING STYLES TO LEARNING SCIENCE: FACILITATING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH EFFECTIVE COURSE DEVELOPMENT

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Patricia Beyers Pelzel, MA - Crisis Prevention Institute
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Download and open OLC Conferences mobile app
- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen (located under session type and track)
- Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

Five (5) $25 gift cards will be awarded
Must submit evals using the OLC Conferences mobile app or website
What is your preferred learning style?

- Auditory  A
- Visual    B
- Verbal    C
- Kinesthetic D
- I don't have one E
How would you define "learning science"?
What do you mean by “learning science”?

Learning science: interdisciplinary empirical investigation of learning as it exists in real-world settings

- MBE science (Mind, Brain, and Education)
- Neuroscience
- Cognitive Science
The dedication to learning styles

Betts et al: “Learning Styles” is one of the most persistent neuromyths

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<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Instructional Designers</th>
<th>Administrators</th>
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<td>3. Individuals learn better</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>when they receive information</td>
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<td>in their preferred learning</td>
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<td>styles (e.g., auditory, visual, kinesthetic).*</td>
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OLC’s “Neuromyths and Evidence-Based Practices in Higher Education” Recommendations

Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) should

• “Assess the awareness of neuromyths, general information about the brain, and evidence-based practices among their instructors, instructional designers, and administrators.”
• Encourage IDs and educators to independently learn about MBE Science.
• Integrate MBE Science into professional development.

So, how likely do you think it is that IHEs will embrace this paradigm shift in a timely manner?
When you consider whether your institution would adopt the recommendations from the OLC report, what are the first 1-2 words that come to mind? (Keep it clean!)
Learning Styles are real
(just not effective ways to learn)

Most people DO have a “preferred” learning style; it’s just that the preferred style isn’t necessarily more effective in learning outcomes.

Bozarth: “People don’t like being told that they’re wrong, or stupid, or have been perpetuating bad practices for years.”
So what can you do right now?

- Consider your tactic (*Strategies for Engaging Faculty in Instructional Design*)
- Pick your battles (Bozarth, *Truth about Learning Styles*)
- Apply a learning science concept: use what’s familiar to teach new concepts

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<th>3 MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES for generating faculty trust and buy-in</th>
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From learning styles to learning science

**Learning Styles**
- Multiple styles of learning
- Teach to all categories of learning style
- Build on familiar styles of learning for learner in order to put the learner at ease

**Learning Science**
- Mayer’s Multimedia Theory (contiguity and modality principles)
- Universal Design for Learning (multiple means of engagement, representation, and action/expression)
- Connect new information to prior learning (constructivism)
Let’s practice!
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Resources


Liu, Yingjie, and Patrick Dempsey. “*Strategies for Engaging Faculty in Instructional Design.*” *EdMedia 2017*.