What’s Your Type?
How to personalize online learning according to learner types

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Wouldn’t it be great if we could create a ‘choose your own learning’ type of classroom for our students, based on their learning type?
Creating an Individualized Online Learning Experience

- Online learning requires the student take greater responsibility for his or her own learning
  - In a F2F classroom, the student learns to rely on the instructor “for their motivation, direction, goal setting, progress monitoring, self-assessment, and achievement” (Martinez, 2000, p. 2)
- Thus, for an individualized online learning experience, we can try a ‘choose your own adventure’ where students can learn based on their learner type
Learning Orientation Model

• Four types of learners based on:
  • Emotional and intentional intrinsic motivational aspects
  • Self-directed strategic planning and committed learning effort
  • Learning autonomy

• These factors heavily influence our cognitive learning preferences, strategies, and skills
How Can We Effectively Support Each Type?

• Central to this is to structure your class so that each learner type’s needs are addressed

Students can find ways to identify their approaches for success
Type of Learner 1: Transforming

Characteristics
• Self motivated
• Self-directed
• Independent

Online Learning Success
• Extremely successful

Areas of Concern
• Lose motivation or resistant to learning environments that interfere with their learning patterns

Approaches for Success
• Focus on process, implementation, and details to ensure task completion
Transforming Preferred Learning Assessments Examples

• They do best with discovery-oriented, unsequenced, and mentoring environments
• Are passionate, assertive, and challenged by complex problem solving
• Are able to self-motivate, self-manage, and self-monitor learning

Choose one topic from the following that piques your interest the most...
(Honors Project, Choose your own assignment)
Type of Learner 2: Performing

Characteristics
- Short-term, project-oriented thinkers
- Prefer hands-on, competitive or team environments

Online Learning Success
- Skilled online learners if topic is of interest to them

Areas of Concern
- Selectively focus on improving areas that they value and lose motivation if too much effort is required

Approaches for Success
- Find reasons to self-motivate and self-direct more challenging efforts
Performing Preferred Learning Assessments Examples

- Prefer coaching, practice, and feedback to encourage and support self-motivation, task solving, self-monitoring progress, and task sequencing

Group assignments, lower stakes assessments that build to a higher stakes one, rubrics (Quick Checks, Group Discussions)
Type of Learner 3: Conforming

Characteristics
- Rely on explicit guidance and simple steps

Online Learning Success
- Less successful if assistance is lacking

Areas of Concern
- Frustrated by complex online learning
- Depend on quality and amount of support from instructors

Approaches for Success
- Acquire more independent thinking and risk-taking skills to trust themselves
Conforming Preferred Learning Assessments Examples

- Prefer simple, scaffolded, structured, facilitated, low-risk environments
- Require explicit, careful guidance to help them learn comfortably in an easy, step-wise fashion

Assignments broken into multiple drafts with step-by-step instructions/rubrics
(Diet Analysis Assignment)
Type of Learner 4: Resistant

Characteristics
- Doubt the value of achieving learning objectives set by others

Online Learning Success
- Often unsuccessful

Areas of Concern
- Suffered repeated, long-term frustration from academic failures and may not believe in formal education

Approaches for Success
- They should seek to understand the benefits of learning and seek support when needed
Resistant Preferred Learning Assessments Examples

- Prefer assignments they feel ‘benefit’ them, steers away from ‘busy’ work
- Need multiple check-ins, reassurance, assistance

Explicit instructions on how the assignment can benefit them, provided with opportunities to check in with instructor (Monthly Check-ins, Diet Analysis Assignment)
As a student, which type of learner were you?

- Transforming
- Performing
- Conforming
- Resistant
- None of the above
What type of learner do you find you have the most of in your class?

Transforming
Performing
Conforming
Resistant
None of the above
Remember...

- Providing choice can foster a comfortable, fun classroom environment that supports broad variability in learning from a whole-person perspective.
- These learning types consider how emotions and intentions influence learning and thinking processes:
  - Emotions and intentions are powerful influences that guide how successfully individuals intend to learn.

Diagram:
- Presenting learning choices
- Personalized learning environments
- Helps us address challenges in online learning
Questions?

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- Sources: