In this part of our session, we will:

- Discuss learning styles and simple strategies to adapt instruction
- Look at our own generation and how it impacts how we learn and how we teach
- Explore the instructional needs of different generations

Teachers need to consider two things when planning instruction:
- ✓ "what" they will teach, and
- ✓ "how" they will teach it.
Transferring Andragogy to Classroom Practice

- Explain why things are being taught (processes, strategies, content)
- Allow learners to discover things on their own (inquiry, problem-solving, critical thinking)
- Task-oriented instead of memorization
- Learning materials and activities account for different levels of learning styles/ generations/ experience with technology
How do you learn?

How would you put a bicycle together for a child?

- Read the directions and look at the graphics
- Have someone read the directions to you while you did what was asked
- Start putting pieces together (you know what a bicycle looks like)

THE LEARNING PYRAMID

Knowledge Retention Rates

- Passive Teaching Methods
  - Lecture: 6%
  - Reading: 10%
  - Audio/Visual: 20%
  - Demonstration: 30%
  - Discussion/Group: 50%
  - Practice by Doing: 75%
  - Teach Others: 90%

Participatory Teaching Methods

Principles to Inform Teaching Practices

| Clarity | Easy to Follow and Understand |
| Fairness | Balanced, Logical, Open, Reasonable, and Non-Discriminatory Teacher Responses |
| Interest | Appeals to Curiosity and Attentiveness |
| Relevance | Degree of Connectedness and Significance |
| Support | Ready Availability of Appropriate Resources |

What about Learning Styles? Valid or Debunked Theory?

Does Research Support Learning Styles? It Depends!

Richard M. Felder – NCSU

“Many students have benefited from learning about how they learn and how their pattern of learning differs from others.”

Harold Pashler – UC, San Diego

“There is no adequate evidence base to justify incorporating learning styles assessment into general education practice.”

Take a Realistic Perspective

- Learning styles are not either-or categories, but preferences that may be mild, moderate, or strong.
- Students with any learning style can succeed in any career or endeavor.
- The optimal teaching style strikes a balance between each dimension of chosen learning styles model.
- Acquainting students with their learning styles can enhance awareness of some of their natural learning strengths, and it can also alert them to learning needs.
It's Your Turn!

VARK Sample Questions

https://vark-learn.com/

VARK is a questionnaire that helps your learning by suggesting the strategies you should be using.

No cost to
• Learn learning preferences
• Access information on strategies
Fee to receive full profile
A Few Things to Think About

- Make sure that students understand why they are learning something
- Respect that students have different learning styles and are from different generations
- Allow students to experience what they’re learning
- When the student is ready; the teacher appears
- Encourage students and support their learning

What does Generation Have to Do with Learning
5 Generations – 5 Learning Needs

It's All About My Generation!
Take a few moments to think about the following questions. Jot down your answers; you will use them later.

1. What was one important national/international event that occurred during your youth?
2. What was a toy, show, or item that was popular?
3. What was a common slang word that you used?
We have been talking for years about the multi-level classroom.

How about the multi-generational classroom?  
*(Why can’t they be like we were . . . ?)*

**Generation Me**

“When you were born influences your personality and attitudes more than does the family that raised you.”


**What We Know**

- Teachers tend to teach  
  - in their personal learning style  
  - by the methods by which they were taught  
  - by the generation in which they were born

- Students prefer teachers who teach  
  - the way they (the students) learn  
  - by the techniques of the generation in which they were born
What Is a Generation?

• Consists of approximately a 20 to 24-year span
• Possesses certain characteristics, shared values and beliefs (Strauss & Howe)
• Often defined by significant events experienced
• Looks at their generation as the standard of comparison
• Looks at the next generation skeptically, i.e., “these kids today…”

How Traditionalists Learn

• New is not necessarily better
• Like structure, schedules, and procedures
• Brain processes new ideas into old mental framework
• Dislike being called on
What Can You Do?

• Provide consistency and structure in activities, a step-by-step approach
• Organize materials in bullet/outline form
• Use at least 12-point type
• Encourage periodic movement during class time
• Allow extra time for both input and responses
• Provide alternatives to technology (but don’t assume all are techno phobic)

How Boomers Learn

• Want things to fit into the “big picture”
• Work well in groups
• Like to explore and analyze, look at different views
• Good with content
• Like books, PPT, and handouts

What Can You Do?

• Give plenty of time for Boomers to practice new skills
• Plan your role play exercises carefully
  • Make them authentic
• Do not always let them lead team projects
  • Let them practice other skills periodically
• Organize materials with headings and relevant information underneath

Workbook – p. 4

Practice makes Progress

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How Xers Learn

- Task oriented – like to learn new skills
- Speed is important
- Self-paced learning.
- Informal learning environments are best
- Want feedback from teacher

What Can You Do?

- Use pop-culture examples if appropriate
- Give individual attention when required
- Use most exciting material in short lecture (15-20 min.)
  - Use activities for rest of material
- Use bullet points when giving information
- Use plenty of graphics and white space
  - This will help Millennials as well

How Millennials Learn

- Can multi-task with ease
- Prefer graphs to text
- Focus on skills
Things That Work

- Give them options and choices
- Break up lectures/seat-work with activities
- Provide assignments with multiple steps, not just a final product
- Incorporate learning by discovery
- Allow teamwork
- Use visuals whenever possible

How Gen Zs Learn

78% of Gen Z think their teachers are "very" or "extremely" important to their learning and development.

39% of Gen Z prefer learning with a person teaching the instruction.

Gen Z wants to learn on their own terms and prefer bite-sized learning.

Think technology!
- Incorporate YouTube videos
- Provide an overview and then break into smaller learning components
- Allow for some self-directed learning
- Use visuals whenever possible
- Encourage further exploration of topics
- Incorporate polls and surveys
Juggling in the Classroom

- Go for a balance
  - Individual
  - Small group
  - Whole group
- Provide options
  - Workbooks, handouts
  - Videos
  - Hands-on
- Look for commonalities among generations
  - Boomers and Millennials like group work
  - Gen X and Gen Z like a level of independence
  - Consider how all generations use technology

Clarifying Question

How has working with different generations changed your approach to instruction?
The Multi-Generational Classroom

- Tell me what to do.
- Show me what to do.
- Why do I need to learn this?
- Connect me to what I need to succeed in today's global economy.

One Final Word

In case you're worried about what's going to become of the younger generation, it's going to grow up and start worrying about the younger generation.

(Roger Allen)