Conversations in Teaching and Learning

Designing Web-based Courses for Multiple Learning Styles

Workshop Outline:

1. Introduction: 1 minute
   a. Thank you and welcome
      i. Many who have developed online courses, others we can assist
      ii. Format for today:
         1. Exercise as a refresher on learning styles
         2. Exercise to lead us into dialog on learning styles
      iii. Story about 1st online class I took
      iv. Leave them with question – why do you think I didn’t enjoy the class or think I learned something from the class?

2. Palm Pilot Software Exercise: 5 minutes
   a. Give the following scenario: You’ve just bought a new palm pilot and have been given the Road Scholar CD software. Take a minute and jot down how would you go about learning how to use the palm pilot and the software?
   b. Ask:
      i. Who would like to tell us how they would go about learning to use their new palm pilot and software?
      ii. Who would like to show us how they would go about learning to use their new palm pilot and software?
      iii. Go to back of room and ask who would like to write down how they would go about learning to use their new palm pilot and software.
   c. If all three learning styles weren’t addressed then ask for more . . . of if all but tactile . . explain that is what I am.
   d. Questions:
      i. How many of you would go directly to the manual that came with the software? Record #.
      ii. How many of you would call their 800# or ask a colleague for help? Record #.
iii. How many of you would just try getting it to work? Record #.
e. Talk about whether group seems similar to the norm:
   i. 40% visual learners
   ii. 30% auditory learners
   iii. 30% tactile learners

3. Learning Styles Inventory Exercise: 5 minutes (Omit – give as handout)
   a. Divide group into pairs. Give half the inventory and the other half the scoring method.
   b. Have their partner score their inventory.
   c. Discuss whether the way they approached learning the Road Scholar software was reflective of the style that the Learning Styles Inventory indicated.

4. Tell the rest of my story and about the second class I took.
   a. Second class included learning style inventories, etc.
   b. All things indicated I was a tactile learning. I thought about career choices I had made – music, home economics, computer training.
   c. More importantly I taught the way I learn best and many teachers do that . . .

5. Online Techniques Exercise: 10 minutes
   a. Read statement about each learning style:
      i. Visual: These people learn best when information is presented visually and in a written, picture, or design format.
      ii. Auditory: These people learn best when information is presented aurally
      iii. Tactile: These people learn best when doing a physical "hands-on" activity. They learn by imitation and practice, remember more what was done than what was seen or talked about.
   b. Pass out cards with various online techniques.
   c. Pass out Learning Styles Worksheet
   d. Ask participants to go to the group for which they think their technique most applies (visual, auditory, tactile)
   e. Have participants read their technique and explain why they think it best fits the group they selected.

6. Brainstorm and Discussion: 5 minutes
   a. Have participants brainstorm other techniques.
   b. Decide which learning style would benefit most from this technique.