

Understanding Three Different Learning Styles

Every student learns in different ways. It is important for your G.O.L.D. Leadership Team members to understand the purpose of using various teaching methods to accommodate each student's individual learning style. There are three primary categories of learning styles.

1. Auditory (hearing).
2. Visual (seeing).
3. Kinesthetic (doing).



Auditory Learning Habits

Students who are auditory learners retain information through verbal instruction. They listen for key words and phrases to help them understand their lessons. Since auditory learners rely heavily on what they hear, an instructor should provide clear directions when explaining a drill.

When a drill is taking place, and the teacher is giving the class pointers or corrections, an auditory learner will remember most of them, verbatim. Use a strong voice to accentuate or highlight key points that you want students to remember.

Tips for Teaching Auditory Learners

- They learn by listening, so give directions that are clear and concise.

- Provide them with short verbal pointers and corrections while the drill is taking place.
- Use your voice to accentuate key points for students to remember.

Visual Learning Habits

Students who are visual learners gather information through what they see. They prefer to watch a demonstration of a technique first, opposed to listening to a verbal explanation. They may ask for additional visual demonstrations to help them understand the drills.

An instructor should make sure that visual learners are able to see clearly during the demonstrations and explanations. The demonstrations should take place from several different angles or views. Place visual learners near students with great technique to help them feel more at ease, while learning new things.

Tips for Teaching Visual Learners

- They learn best by watching techniques being demonstrated.
- Show them the technique from different angles and views.
- Place visual learners near other students with great technique.

Kinesthetic Learning Habits

Kinesthetic learners understand new techniques quickly by physically performing those techniques. They prefer to experience a drill, rather than watch a demonstration and listen to a lengthy explanation. Instructors should provide basic, brief explanations of the exercise, and then let kinesthetic learners give it a try. You may hear them say that a technique feels good, or doesn't feel quite right.

An instructor will want to use physical involvement when correcting this type of learner. Having the student repeat the motion slowly or gently putting the student through the correct motion will have more learning impact than verbal corrections.

Tips for Teaching Kinesthetic Learners

- They learn best by physically experiencing techniques.
- Keep your instructions and demonstrations brief, and let them give it a try.
- Use physical corrections, so they understand how it feels to execute a technique correctly.

G.O.L.D. Leadership Team Discussion

- Explain the three learning styles to your G.O.L.D. Leadership Team members.
- Explain the reasons why an instructor should use various teaching methods while instructing a group of students.
- Explain auditory learning habits and how to apply them to classroom teaching.
- Explain visual learning habits and how to apply them to classroom teaching.
- Explain kinesthetic learning habits and how to apply them to classroom teaching.

G.O.L.D. Leadership Team Drills

The following drills will help your team learn how to use the different learning styles to teach students. Ask them to practice the following drills with each other in small groups, before being rated on their performances.

Drill #1: Accommodating Auditory Learning Habits

Create a mock class with one leadership team member as the instructor and the others as students. The “instructor” teaches a technique from your curriculum to the “class,” using teaching methods that accommodate auditory learners. Listen for clear, concise verbal instruction; short verbal pointers given

while the drills are taking place; and the use of a strong voice to accentuate key points. Make sure that they are properly performing the technique.

Drill #2: Accommodating Visual Learning Habits

Create a mock class with one leadership team member as the instructor and the others as students. The “instructor” teaches a technique from your curriculum to the “class,” using teaching methods that accommodate visual learners. Make sure they give visual instruction from different angles, and that students can see the demonstration. Each “instructor” should also position visual students near students who have great form to help him or her learn.

Drill #3: Accommodating Kinesthetic Learning Habits

Create a mock class with one leadership team member as the instructor and the others as students. The “instructor” teaches a technique from your curriculum to the “class,” using teaching methods that accommodate kinesthetic learners. Watch for brief demonstrations that allow students to try the technique quickly. The “instructor” should also physically correct students, so they understand how it feels to execute the technique properly.

Drill #4: Accommodating All Three Learning Habits

Create a mock class with one leadership team member as the instructor and the others as students. The “instructor” teaches a technique from your curriculum to the “class,” using all of the teaching methods simultaneously to accommodate all three learning styles. Watch how they use verbal, visual and kinesthetic instruction to teach students how to perform the technique properly.

Once your leadership team members have practiced the four drills above, rotate them through the drills for the purpose of rating them. Use a scale from 1-10, 10 being the best. Each member must score a 7 or more to pass.

- Review each team member’s scores, and discuss how well each performed.
- Review the learning styles once again, and give the team members an opportunity to ask questions.