The Benefits of a Multimodality Approach to Teaching & Learning

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Summit View School

- Head of School
- Located in Los Angeles, California
- Elementary through High School
- Close to 300 students
- Students with learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD
- Faculty are specially trained
What is a Multimodality Approach?

Presenting information in multiple ways to capture all learning styles/learners in a classroom.
Education has evolved to recognize that learning takes many forms and is multisensory. No one person learns the same.

- 20 to 30 percent of learners remember through hearing.
- 40 percent retain information visually.
- The remaining percentage have higher memory retention after writing something down or through real-life activities.

Types of Learning Styles
The VARK Modalities

- Visual (V)
- Auditory (A)
- Read/Write (R)
- Kinesthetic (K)
Visual Modality

- Prefer to see information in which they are looking to learn.

- Charts, graphs, diagrams, maps, flow charts, hierarchies, etc. work best for visual learners.

- Whiteboards, Smart Boards and other interactive tools help visual learners best grasp and understand material.
Auditory Modality

- Preferred method of learning is when information is heard or spoken.

- Both lectures and group discussion – hearing and speaking – work best.

- Often times Auditory Learners benefit from talking to themselves….assists with executive functioning, organizing thoughts, and digesting material.
Read/Write Modality

✓ Prefer learning through words, whether through writing and/or reading.

✓ This preference emphasizes text-based input and output. Reading and writing in all its forms, but especially manuals, reports, essays and assignments.

✓ People who prefer this modality often rely heavily on PowerPoint, the Internet, lists, dictionaries, journals, quotations, words, words, words...
Kinesthetic/Tactile Modality

- Preference related to experience and practice (simulated or real) – simulated or real

- People who prefer this mode are connected to reality, either through concrete experiences or examples.

- This modality is suited for the individual who enjoys doing, opposed to listening or seeing.

- Hands-on discovery and learning is beneficial to this type of learner.
Classroom Type

- Multimodality
  - Diverse learning styles recognized
  - Differentiated instruction
  - End goal may be the same for all learners, but the way in which it is achieved may vary

- Traditional
  - Lecture-based Classroom
  - Teacher-centered Classroom
  - One-size fits all model
  - Students as passive learners
  - The regurgitation of information
Multimodality Vs. Traditional
Your Body Assignment

Objective – students will be able to recognize parts of the body

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkHQ0CYwjaI

Game - Operation
Benefits of a Multimodality Approach

- Increased Focus
- Increased Motivation
- Fosters “Out of the Box Thinking”
- More Engagement in Material
- Enhanced Achievement
Endless options for capturing all learners....

- Project-Based Learning
- Innovative Classroom Tools
- Assistive Technology
- VARK Modality Checklist
Do you know your learning style?

Exercise - take 3 minutes to complete the VARK questionnaire
Next Steps......

- Do your students know their learning style?
- Do you know the learning style of your students?
- Are you best meeting the needs of your students?
- Where to go from here?
THE END

THANK YOU!