



# 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.

# The Proof is In the Numbers

- ✓ 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.
- ▶ Farwell, T. (n.d.). Learning styles: Visual, auditory, kinesthetic. Retrieved from <https://www.familyeducation.com/school/multiple-intelligences/learning-styles-visual-auditory-kinesthetic>

# 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

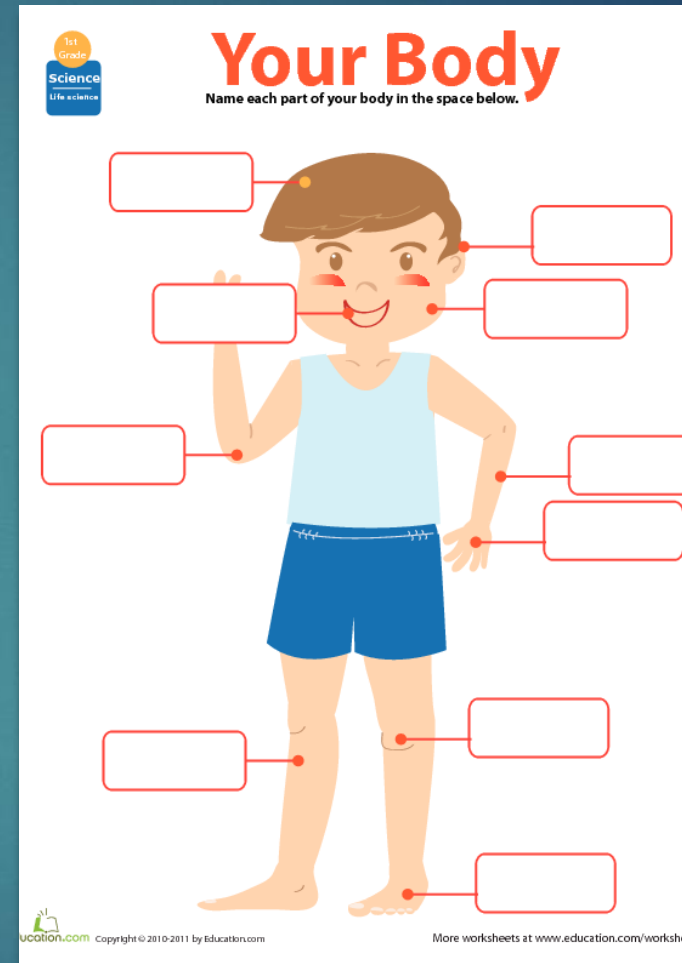


# Your Body Assignment

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkHQ0CYwjal>

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

# VARK Questionnaire

- 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!