Identifying Learning Styles

After reading each description, mark each option on a scale of 1-4 where 1 is very little like me, 2 is something like me, and 3 is very much like me and 4 is me!

I do my best work:

a. when I’m with other people _____
b. alone, gathering information from books or other sources _____
c. analyzing how something works or fixing something so it does work _____
d. brainstorming new ideas, or trying new and daring things others wouldn’t try _____

I like to work:

a. in a colorful working environment _____
b. at a desk or table _____
c. with my hands as well as my mind _____
d. with new ideas, making intuitive guesses on what works _____

When solving problems, I like to:

a. give essay-type answers rather than fill-in the blank _____
b. find the right answer rather than the best available answer _____
c. test my own solutions and prove I’m right _____
d. make guesses or follow hunches _____

When I’m with others, I see myself as:

a. a friend by helping and understanding them _____
b. an information giver and organizer _____
c. a trainer, helping others do what needs to be done _____
d. a facilitator or idea-stimulator for them _____
The worst thing that could happen in my class is the students:

a. don’t get along with each other - or with me _____
b. don’t learn the facts they’re given _____
c. don’t know how to apply what they’ve learned _____
d. don’t know how to use what they know to make the world a better place _____

People tend to describe me as:

a. a really nice person _____
b. a really smart person _____
c. a hard worker and results-oriented _____
d. a highly creative person _____

In a disagreement I am most likely to:

a. accept the other person’s point of view or walk away diplomatically _____
b. point out the errors in the other person’s point of view _____
c. do anything I can to win because I’m sure my solution will work _____
d. show the other person where their line of reasoning will lead _____

When I’m given an assignment I prefer:

a. to work with a team or a partner and do something I can act out _____
b. to work alone and gather all the facts before I begin writing a paper _____
c. to work alone doing something I can test or demonstrate _____
d. to choose the assignment and how it will be done _____

When I have a choice on how to present my ideas, I like to:

a. do it as a skit or drama that everyone will enjoy _____
b. lecture with prepared notes, graphs and charts _____
c. do it as a debate so I can prove why my ideas will work _____
d. create exciting displays and use them to dream-build with the audience _____

Score sheet for page 2    A. ___________    B. ________    C. ________    D. ________
Part of my self-identity is wrapped-up in:

a. the number of friends I have and the strength of those relationships _____
b. how smart others think I am _____
c. how well my creations work or how well I do my job _____
d. how many new ideas I have or how insightful I am _____

In a group, the role I like best is:

a. handling the social aspects, making sure everyone is involved _____
b. doing all the research so we have the information we need _____
c. having my own assigned duties that I can complete on time _____
d. being the leader and inspiring everyone to pursue a common goal _____

In a drama, I prefer to:

a. be an actor _____
b. write the script _____
c. build the set _____
d. direct the play _____

When I have spare time I like to:

a. have a party or visit _____
b. learn something new _____
c. build something _____
d. travel _____

Three words that best describe me are:

a. friendly, sharing, hugging _____
b. rational, analytic, smart _____
c. active, realistic, practical _____
d. curious, leader, imaginative _____

Score sheet for page 3     A. _______     B. _______     C. _______     D. _______
In a discussion, I like to:

a. listen to others’ ideas and then share my opinions _____
b. present the facts and organize the ideas _____
c. critique the ideas and present the rational solution _____
d. brainstorm and see if we’ve explored all the possibilities _____

Add up all the a’s, b’s, c’s and d’s separately.

The highest score is your **dominant style**

where “a” is innovative, “b” is analytic, “c” is common sense, and “d” is dynamic.

The lowest scores for a style describe

*the students whose needs I am least likely to meet, or least likely to understand.*

Record your scores on page 5 in the appropriate section….

Then let’s talk about it!

**Ponder this:** We all have some attributes of each learning style. What we want to do is identify our dominant style so we can appreciate how others like to learn. Then we can better enjoy being a student in a mixed class, or being a teacher who meets the needs of more students. Having close scores in each category shows a diverse approach to learning, while a heavily weighted score in a single category indicates a consistent approach to learning. The goal is not to become a different kind of learner, but to consciously identify and accept each style as a valid way to learn. This promotes unity, harmony, and understanding.
4. Dynamic
20% of population
50-50 M-F

d. ________________
   Your score

1. Innovative
25% of population
25-75 M-F

a. ________________
   Your score

3. Common Sense
30% of population
50-50 M-F
75% of ADD
75% of prison population

c. __________
   Your score

2. Analytical
25% of population
50-50 M-F

b. __________
   Your score