

Learning Styles

By Dave Batty
Participant Notesheet / Answer Key

1. Teen Challenge Staff Training

Track:	T5	The Teen Challenge Program
Topic:	506	Group Studies Teacher Training
Course Number:	506.07	Learning Styles
Author:		Dave Batty
Level:	1	

2. Course Description:

This course is the sixth session for *Group Studies for New Christians* teacher training. The topics covered in this session are basic not only to the GSNC classes but to all teachers as they prepare lessons for discipleship training. It can also be useful for the basic training of all staff working in the Teen Challenge ministry no matter what their responsibilities. This workshop explores different learning styles. It is based on the book, *The way they learn*, by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias (Focus on the Family Publishing 1994).

3. Suggested teaching schedule: 1 hour

4. Materials available:

Participant Notesheet	PowerPoint Presentation
Participant Notesheet/Answer key	Audio mp3 (<i>coming soon</i>)
	Video (<i>coming soon</i>)

(For more information on the latest resources available for this course, check the website: iTeenChallenge.org)

5. How this course can be used:

This course is for training current and potential leaders for Teen Challenge ministry. It can be used in a variety of settings:

1. As an individual self study course: You can read through the materials available and listen to the audio or watch the video. We encourage you to take notes on how you can relate this to your own situation.
2. Play the audio/video tape of this session for your training. Provide each one attending a copy of the Participant Notesheet. We encourage you to use the PowerPoint presentation as you listen to the tape. If you use this option, it would be best to follow with a discussion of how you can begin applying these principles in your own setting.

3. Use these resources to plan your own teaching of this course in your local ministry setting. We encourage you to provide each one with a copy of the Participant Notesheet or create your own notesheet.
6. **Background reading:** For additional study on this topic:
The way they learn, by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias (Focus on the Family Publishing 1994).

www.CynthiaTobias.com This website has a bibliography with excellent resources listed for more study on learning styles. Each resource listed also has a brief description of what it covers.
7. **Translation of this course:** Please check the website iTeenChallenge.org to see if this course is already available in your language. We are very interested in offering this course in other languages. If you translate this course, please send a copy to Global Teen Challenge at gtc@globaltc.org
8. **Video or audio of this course:** Please check the website iTeenChallenge.org to see if a video or audio version of this course is already available in your language. We are very interested in offering this course in other languages. If you teach this course, please make a video or audio recording of the training and send a copy to Global Teen Challenge at gtc@globaltc.org or mail it to the address listed below.
9. **Request for evaluations and feedback:** Global Teen Challenge is seeking to improve the training resources it provides. Your evaluation and feedback would be most helpful to the on-going development of this course and other training resources. You can email your comments directly to gtc@globaltc.org or go to the website: iTeenChallenge.org and click on the **Contact Us** button.

Global Teen Challenge is also looking to expand the training resources for equipping leaders in Teen Challenge centers around the world. If there are other topics you would like to study, please send your ideas to the address below. If you have training materials that you would like to recommend, please send those ideas as well.

10. **Contact information**

Global Teen Challenge
PO Box 511
Columbus, GA 31902 USA

Phone: 1-706-576-6555

Email: gtc@globaltc.org

Websites: Teen Challenge Training resources: www.iTeenChallenge.org

Global Teen Challenge: www.Globaltc.org

Learning Styles

By Dave Batty

Why do you want to learn about learning styles?

1. You might discover you are smarter than you think?
2. The better you understand your learning style, the greater is your potential to be a success at Teen Challenge (for the rest of your life).
3. If you are a staff member at Teen Challenge, you are a teacher—either formally or informally. The more you understand learning styles, the more effective you will be at helping TC students become successful life-long learners
Many TC students are diamonds in the rough—they don't look like much now, but in the hands of Jesus they can become incredibly successful.
4. The more you learn about your own learning styles and how to effectively use them in your life—the more it builds self-confidence in yourself
The same for your students—it helps them build self-confidence.

Reality check #1: Learning about learning styles is hard work.

“It usually takes from three to five years of learning about, observing, and using learning styles information before it becomes second nature.” Cynthia Tobias, *The Way They Learn*

This workshop is only one small step in the process of learning about learning styles.

For this workshop today, the primary source for information comes from the book, *The Way They Learn*, by Cynthia Tobias

Myth #1: The Myth of uniformity

Myth: Everyone learns just like me. We all learn the same way.

If you were a good student, who had good study habits, you would learn the way I do.

Truth: Not everyone learns like you do.

Reality Check #2: If God were teaching this workshop, what would He say is the foundation for learning?

--Is it memorizing facts?

--Is it memorizing scriptures?

--Matthew 7:24-27 wise person vs. foolish person

--Learning is the path to wisdom if you learn **God's** truth and then put it into **action**

--Personal **application** is the foundation for life, for learning

Overview

What are some of the basic ways of looking at learning styles?

(Names in parentheses are the originators of descriptions)

1. Mind Styles (Gregorc)
 - a. Perception—How do you view the world?
 - b. Ordering—How you use the information that you perceive
2. How do you concentrate? Environmental preferences (Dunn and Dunn)
3. How do you remember? (Barb-Swassing)
4. How do you process information? How do you understand? (Witkin)
5. How smart are you? (Gardner)

Reality Check #3: Learning is a **discipline**, not a gift.

How do people become great? Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods

Learning styles must be brought into the **discipline** of learning.

Let's take a deeper look at each of the 5 points covered in the overview.

1. Mind Styles

This is the one of the most difficult parts of learning styles to grasp.

A. Perception—How do you view the world?

There are 2 significantly different ways to perceive things. Perception has to do with taking information into your brain.

1. Concrete

- a. What you can perceive with your 5 senses
- b. Dealing with the here and now
- c. We are not looking for hidden meanings
- d. What you see is real
- e. It's black or white
- f. Takes what you say at face value
- g. Literal

2. Abstract

- a. To visualize in your mind
- b. To imagine
- c. To use your intuition—it's a gut feeling
- d. To believe what we cannot see—faith, trust
- e. To look for hidden meanings
- f. To look beyond the obvious
- g. There are many shades of gray, not just black and white, and then there are a whole bunch of other colors, not just black and white.
- h. To look at something and see in your mind what is not there—extreme makeover
- i. Figurative, symbolic

Everyone uses both perception abilities every day. But we are often more comfortable using one more than the other.

B. Ordering—How you use the information that you perceive

1. Sequential

- a. Organize things in a step by step way
- b. Have a plan
- c. Follow a logical train of thought
- d. a to b to c to d to e
- e. They do not rely on impulse
- f. Accountants
- g. "Follow the instructions"

2. Random

- a. Organize things in chunks, in no particular sequence
- b. How you do a painting—a little here, a little there
- c. We like to skip steps in the instructions
- d. We read the end or the middle of the book first
- e. How does this movie end?
- f. Spontaneous, free-spirited
- g. No plans needed
- h. Not every random person has ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder)
- i. "Just get it done!"

When we take these two ways of perceiving things, and these two ways of ordering things and mix them all together we come up with 4 different combinations—4 learning styles.

Perception / Ordering

- 1. Concrete Sequential
- 2. Abstract Sequential
- 3. Concrete Random
- 4. Abstract Random

This is where it begins to get detailed to the point that we need more than 45 minutes to master this. Much more is covered on these in the book, ***The Way They Learn***, by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias

2. How do you concentrate?

This is another layer of learning styles

This is all about environmental preferences

Where should a person study?

What is the ideal environment where you can concentrate the best in studying and learning?

1. Morning or later in the day? At night?
2. Sitting at a table or desk vs. sitting on a couch or recliner?
3. Or laying on your bed?
4. Or sitting on the floor?
5. Inside or outdoors?
6. With or without background music?
7. TV on or off?
8. Lighting—bright or subdued?
9. Alone or with others?
10. What about the temperature? Cool or warm?
11. What about food? Do you like to eat while studying?
12. What time lengths? In 10 minute spurts? Or 2 hours straight?

Not all of these environmental issues have the same importance to everyone.

Some are preferences. Some are perceived as essential.

Not everyone else fits into your ideal study place.

What is perfect for you is dysfunctional for someone else. That's OK!

Some of us need chaos to learn!

Draw a picture of your ideal study place. (Or make a list of what's included in your ideal study place.)

3. How do you remember?

This is another layer of learning styles

This is all about **how you best learn and remember** what you have learned.

Remembering has to do with how we perceive something with one or more of our 5 senses and **how** those senses help us to **understand** and **remember** that experience or information.

Three major methods of remembering.

- A. **Hearing**
- B. **Seeing**
- C. **Doing** something physically with what you are learning. (Kinesthetic)

Example: How to do something on a computer.

- A. You can hear someone explain to you how to do it.
- B. You can watch someone do it on the computer
- C. You can sit down at the computer and do it yourself.

We all may use each of these to learn some things, but many of us have an easier time remembering something if we use our preferred method of remembering.

Reality Check #4: Our brain processes things differently when we are **high** or **drunk** than when we are **sober**.

When we are sober, we may have no conscious memories of how we behaved when we were under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

4. How do you process information?

How do you understand?

This is another layer of learning styles

This is all about how we take in information and communicate that to others.

Seeing the world from our own frame of **reference**.

Two people can observe the same event and come away with very **different** version of what actually happened.

Two ways of gathering and processing this info.

1. Analytic
2. Global

Let's take a closer look at these.

1. Analytic

- a. Takes in details
- b. Likes things ordered, step-by-step
- c. Often values facts over feelings
- d. Prefers to finish one thing at a time
- e. Logical
- f. Finds facts, but sometimes misses the main idea.

2. Global

- a. Sees the big picture
- b. Sees relationships
- c. Reads between the lines
- d. Sees many options
- e. Easily thinks outside the box
- f. Often likes to be involved in group learning experience
- g. Flexible
- h. Often skip steps
- i. Sometimes fail to place value in details
- j. From the view of the analytic, this person often appears to be disorganized.

Most schools are set up and operate with the analytical approach to learning. The “global” student is often a misfit in that learning environment.

The analytic teacher often uses lecture, individual activities, and reading projects. They grade very rigidly.

The global teacher likes to use discussion, group activities, and cooperative learning. Often share personal experiences. They don't like to be very specific with grades. Big on complimenting their students.

5. How smart are you?

How do you measure smartness? Using the IQ test?

Who decides if you are smart or not?

There are many different types of intelligence

1. **Linguistic—verbal abilities**
 - writing, reading, speaking, debating
 - journalists, teachers, lawyers, politicians, preachers
2. **Logical-Mathematical**
 - good with numbers, patterns, logical reasoning
 - scientists, mathematicians, accountants, IRS employees
3. **Spatial**
 - ability to think in vivid mental pictures, re-creating an image or a situation
 - can look at something and pinpoint what needs to be changed
 - architects, mechanical engineers, drafting
4. **Musical**
 - natural rhythm, perfect pitch
5. **Bodily-Kinesthetic**
 - high degree of physical activity
 - surgeons, mechanics, actors, sports enthusiasts, Tiger Woods
6. **Interpersonal**
 - gift of understanding, appreciating, and getting along well with other people
 - counselors, pastors, teachers, politicians, sales person
7. **Intrapersonal**
 - natural gift to understand ourselves, knowing who we are and how we fit into the world
 - often expressed in solitude, reflection, meditation, time alone

6. Where do we go from here?

Stages of growth in using learning styles

- A. Become aware of your own learning style, and of others
- B. Opposite camps—don't be negative towards those who are different from you.
- C. Appreciate your strengths and weaknesses—do the same with others
- D. Don't use your learning style to make excuses
- E. Style flex—intentionally use other learning styles that may not be your greatest strength
--become more flexible in how you learn

Your brain is a muscle—make it grow stronger every day!

For Further Study

The Way They Learn, by Cynthia Ulrich Tobias (Focus on the Family Publishing, Colorado Springs, CO, 1994)

www.CynthiaTobias.com This website has a bibliography with excellent resources listed for more study on learning styles. Each resource listed also has a brief description of what it covers.