THE LEARNING MODALITIES THEORY

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The difference between Modalities of Learning and Learning Styles:

Learning style is the preferences or different ways in which a learner learn. Not everyone learn in the same way.

Learning modalities theory is one of learning styles theories. There are different ways we can categorize learning styles.

Learning styles theories include: a. Gardner’s multiple intelligences; b. Kolb’s experiential learning styles; c. Honey and Mumford’s learning styles questionnaire; d. Vermunt’s learning styles inventory; and e. Allinson and Hayes’ cognitive style index.

In modalities of learning, we usually only referring to the four specific learning styles: visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile.

Other theories like Gardner’s multiple intelligences theory also use the modalities. Gardner’s theory includes the following learning styles: naturalist, logical-mathematical, interpersonal, linguistic, intrapersonal, and logical.

Conclusion and Final Thought:

Modality in teaching is an important approach for teachers. They should be aware of the needs of the students and how the students use their senses in learning. We need to be aware that each student has a different learning style that we need to cater to in the teaching-learning process.
Teachers would benefit from pausing to reflect upon the four learning modalities: visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile. Including all four modalities in the lesson plans and teaching approach, give students a chance to learn through their preferred method. This help to create a more inclusive, fair and equal classroom for all the learners.

References:

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