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Homework 2 Learning Styles

Everyone learns things differently. That rhetoric has been stamped into most of our minds since we left for middle school. But how much of a difference is there in efficiency between the different learning styles? Are some people at an advantage simply because of favoring a specific style? According to Polly Hussman and Valerie Dean O’Loughlin at Indiana University, the difference is negligible, somewhat immeasurable even. In my experience, I’ve only ever valued adaptability and tenacity – the ability to receive creative criticism is an obtainable skill one we can always work towards. The idea of learning in different, special styles, seems to be lost upon me.

Of course, we all have preferred ways to learn things. I’d like to think I’m very much a visual person. However, I’ve tried making it a point in my life not to be stopped by something so trivial as a difference in learning style. I think it’s part of jobs as students to be flexible. We learn the most when things don’t go our way, and we’re forced to adjust and overcome. It’s our spirit, our resilience, that really counts. Perhaps there’s a bit of “bootstrap mentality” poisoning my ethic, but I do take pride in work, and especially work done after frustration and tribulation.

In conclusion, I think in our day and age it’s easy to feel collectivized when we’re told there’s only one good way to study and learn something, but it’s important not to take it personally. We all learn different ways, it’s if we learned it that counts.

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