

Learning Styles:

The author of the article and the studies referenced within are seemingly of the opinion that there is no “best” style of learning (visual, auditory, reading/writing, kinesthetic) that would produce “better” results for an individual. I can’t argue with their research/study results, but I am not so fast to dismiss the idea. I don’t think the question should be “Which of these learning styles makes you have better grades?”, but rather “Which of these learning styles makes you the most interested in the subject?”.

Simply, I think that sometimes students struggle to be “successful” in school/get good grades, because for whatever reason they are uninterested in the subject. People should implement whichever learning style makes them most engaged in the material. Being engaged or liking the subject would trigger other beneficial habits within the learning process (i.e. repetition, self testing, more of a personal connection) that empirical research has shown to produce better grades. I also think that students sometimes use simple retention strategies like flash cards, sporkle, etc. because they do not have the time for anything else. This could explain some of why the anatomy class students even while knowing their preferred style of learning chose to use others.

These learning styles can be used in any discipline, but I think that different learning styles are better suited for certain subjects. For instance, I can’t imagine inspiring academic excellence within a class full of film majors by only having them reading and writing, hence there are many visual, auditory and kinesthetic components of those classes. On the other hand, it would not be the most useful for an environmental studies student to strictly mimic the sounds & movements of the natural world.