

I think learning styles may have some impact on learning, but I think a far more important thing is interest. I think if a student is really passionate about a subject, they will probably do whatever is necessary for them to learn that subject well. With that, I think the opposite would be true also. Even if something is perfectly attuned to an individual's learning style, if they have no interest in the subject, the way the student engages with the material probably won't make a difference. I think at that point, most people would go for the easiest or fastest option, regardless of if it aligned with their personal learning style. I think my preferred learning style is reading and writing, but if I have to study a subject I don't like, say physics, I'm going to zone out regardless of whether I read a book about it, or watch a video on it.

However, I don't think learning styles are completely without merit. Like I said above, I think the most important thing is interest, and I think the learning style a subject is presented in can easily affect a person's interest in something. Just as a dreary textbook can make your favorite subject awful, a cool hands-on project can make a terrible subject fun. Although, with that point, I think one could make the argument that it's less about the style and more about the specific assignment and having an engaging teacher. I didn't like biology class in high school, and in college, I dreaded that I had to take another one that was practically identical in information. It was just a lecture class, it was all textbook readings, tests, and papers, but the teacher had such a gift for explaining things with fun analogies, that I still remember a lot of the information years later.

Overall, I think the important thing is less about whether learning styles are scientifically proven to be effective, and more about people finding strategies that work for them, and just not use learning styles as a crutch. The only real issue I see is justifying not doing well because something wasn't in one's preferred learning style. If someone can organize the information they receive into a study method that they think better suits them, that's completely valid, and I think they should believe in learning styles if they think it helps them.