

Theory to Practice



CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ONLINE ADULT LEARNERS

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Fellow Learners



Form like groups:

- 1. Favorite winter pastime**
- 2. Number of years in current position**
- 3. Number of computers in your household**

Taken a credit or non-credit course/tutorial online

Taught a credit or non-credit course/tutorial online



Positive Learning Experience

Think of an experience you had as a learner that was positive. What were the characteristics or attributes that made it positive? (Or what was missing from a negative learning experience?)

- Write your top five positive attributes on cards – 1/card
- Discuss the situation and attributes within your group
- Discuss the commonalities of your situations
- Place your 5 cards on the chart in the front of the room according to the common themes
- Finish by 11:15



Adult Learning Principle

Experience

Adults have a foundation of life experiences and knowledge.

They relate new knowledge and information to previously learned information and experiences.



Adult Learning Principle

Experience

Sequencing:

Read → Write

Read → Discuss with class



Adult Learning Principle

Experience

Sequencing:

Read → Write

Read → Discuss with class

Opinion → Read → Write / Discuss

Survey → Expert → Write / Discuss



Adult Learning Principle

Self- Directed

Adults are generally autonomous and prefer self-directed learning.

They like to be involved in setting their own learning objectives

and in evaluating their progress.



Adult Learning Principle

Self- Directed

**Choose one of the following
topics...**

**Research area of interest and
share your findings...**

Feedback from instructor / peers

Master calendar



Adult Learning Principle

Goal- Oriented

Adults are goal-oriented.

**They have a purpose,
goal, or
need for learning.**



Adult Learning Principle

Goal- Oriented

**Clear learning objectives:
Action verbs vs. “understand”**

Clear expectations (rubrics)

**Alignment:
All efforts toward common goal**



Adult Learning Principle

Practical

Adults are practical.

They want to learn something
they can apply immediately

and want to know *why* they need
to know it.



**Adult Learning
Principle**

Practical

How it fits / where it fits

**How will you change your
behavior / practice...**

Trying it out



Adult Learning Principle

Learning Environment

**Adults prefer an environment
of trust, respect,
and freedom of expression.**

**Adults' physiological needs may
impact learning.**



Adult Learning Principle

Learning Environment

Ground rules

Prompts:

**I appreciate _____'s comment
on _____ because...**



Adult Learning Principle

**Active
participation**

**Adults have different learning
styles and**

**prefer to actively participate in
the learning process.**



Learning Styles

- **Verbal and Auditory**
- **Reflective and Observational**
- **Visual**
- **Kinesthetic**



Adult Learning Principle

Active participation

Text

Graphics

Audio

Animation

Video

User controls



**Theory to Practice: Creating a Positive Learning Experience for Online Adult Students
Adult Student Recruitment and Retention Conference – October 26-27, 2009**

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Additional Resources:

A Vision of Students Today – From Kansas State University – a short video summarizing some of the most important characteristics of students today.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGCJ46vyR90>

Web 2.0... the Machine is US/ing Us

Kansas State University – Web 2.0 in just under 5 minutes.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL1GopyXT_g

Penn State Resources

<https://www.e-education.psu.edu/gacdev/assessment>

Scroll down to the Rubric section for examples and tools.

Revised Bloom's Taxonomy and Wenger's Communities of Practice in Second Life. Here's a link to the article:

<http://scottsecondlife.blogspot.com/2009/01/blooms-taxonomy-inworld.html>

And the Second Life slurl:

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Teaching%204/224/164/25>