

Learning Preference Inventory

Many different tools are available to assess students learning preferences. The following page contains two very simple means of gathering student learning preference data on Learning Style and Thinking Style.

Two useful resources for more information on learning preference inventories include *The Parallel Curriculum* (pages 219-222) and *Data Driven Differentiation* (pages 30-36). Many more resources are available on the Internet.

To obtain these resources:

- *The Parallel Curriculum* has been given out during Honors and other Advanced Academic trainings so several people in your department should have a copy.
- *Data Driven Differentiation* was given to middle school administrators during the August Leadership Conference in 2008 or 2009. Ask your school's administrators if you can borrow their copy to read more about the puppy, microscope, clipboard, and beach ball learning styles.

References

Gregory, G. H., Kuzmich, L., (2004). *Data driven differentiation in the standards based classroom*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press.





Tomlinson, C. A., Kaplan, S. N., Renzulli, J. S., Purcell, J. H., Leppien, J. H., Burns, D. E., Strickland, C. A., Imbeau, M. B. (2009). *The parallel curriculum: A design to develop learner potential and challenge advanced learners* (2nd ed). Thousand Oaks: Corwin Press

Learning Preference Inventory

Everyone is unique in the way they make sense of the world around them. To provide your science teacher with information about how *you* learn and process information, please answer the following questions.

LEARNING STYLE

Circle one of the four choices below which best illustrates how you like to learn? In the box provided, briefly explain your selection.

<p>Puppy</p> 	<p>Microscope</p> 
<p>Clipboard</p> 	<p>Beach ball</p> 

THINKING STYLE

For each choice below, circle the **bold** word that best describes how you feel your mind works.

1. Are you more interested in **abstract** or **concrete**?
2. Are you more **decisive** or **open-ended**?
3. Do you rely more on **logic** or **imagination**?
4. Do you tend to **ask why** or **ask how**?
5. Do you process information **globally** or process information **analytically**? (Place a check mark next to those statements that best apply to you. Then, circle your choice above).

Analytical thinkers tend to...	Global thinkers tend to...
process through thinking	process intuitively
Be structured/planned	be spontaneous
control their feelings	let their feelings go
be sequential	be creative

Learning Preference Inventory

be logical	be more abstract
remember names	remember faces
solve problems by breaking them apart	solve problems by looking at whole
be auditory/visual learner	be hands-on learners
prefer to write and talk	prefer to draw and handle objects
follow spoken directions	follow written or demonstrated directions
prefer T/F, multiple choice, matching	prefer essay tests
look for differences	look for similar qualities
think of one thing at a time	think of several things simultaneously
judge objectively	judge emotionally