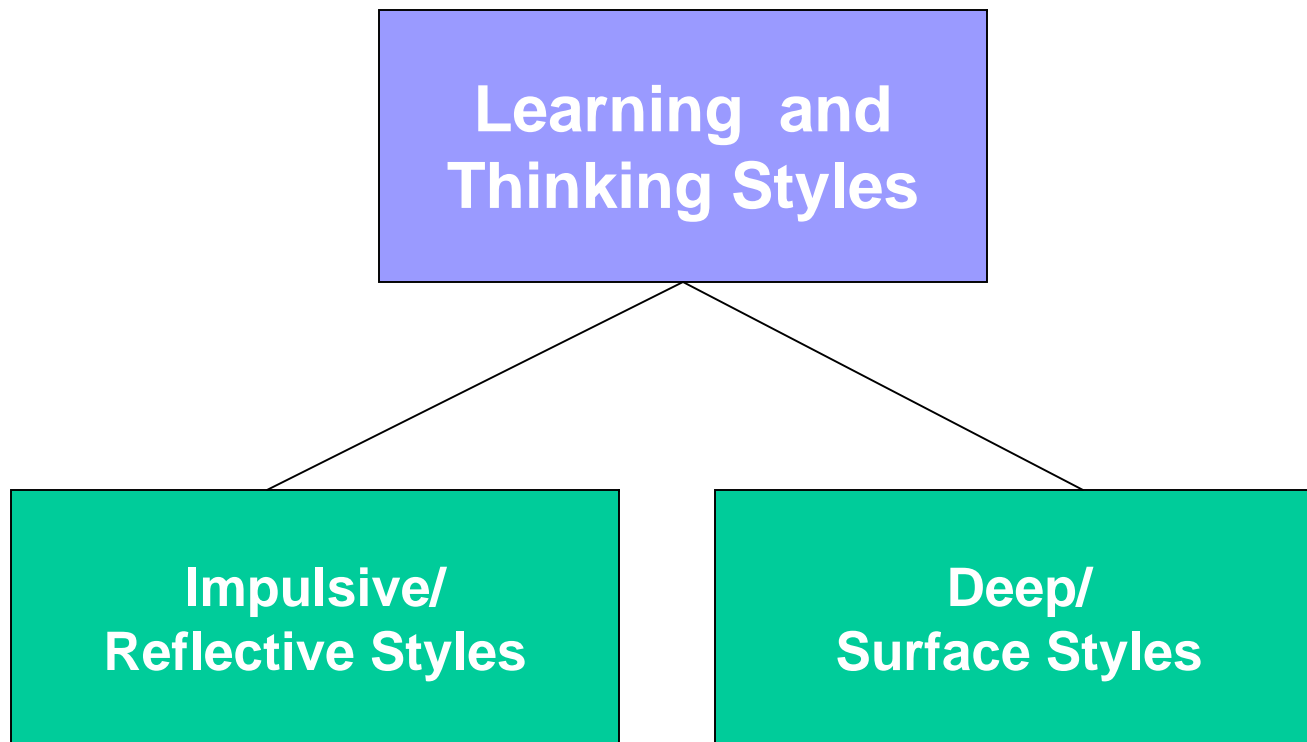


Learning and Thinking Styles



Reflective vs. Impulsive Thinking Styles

Reflective students surpass *impulsive students* at

- Remembering structured information
- Reading comprehension
- Problem solving and decision making
- Goal setting
- Setting high standards for performance

Strategies for Working with Impulsive Children

- Monitor students to identify impulsive ones.
- Talk with them about taking their time to think through their answer before they respond.
- Encourage them to label new info as they work.
- Model the reflective style as a teacher.
- Guide students in creating their own plan to reduce impulsivity.
- Compliment students when they are more reflective

Deep vs. Surface Learning Styles

Deep Learners

- Actively construct knowledge
- Give meaning to material
- Focus on internal rewards
- Are self-motivated

Surface Learners

- Are passive learners
- Fail to tie information to a larger framework
- Focus on external rewards

Strategies for Helping Surface Learners Think More Deeply

- Monitor students to identify surface learners.
- Discuss with students the importance of not just rote memorizing material.
- Ask questions and give assignments that require students to fit info into larger framework.
- Be a model who processes information deeply rather than just scratching the surface.

Personality vs. Temperament

Personality: The distinctive thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that characterize the way an individual adapts to the world.

Temperament: A person's behavioral style and characteristic way of responding.

The “Big Five” Personality Factors

Openness

- Imaginative or practical
- Interested in variety or routine
- Independent or conforming

Conscientiousness

- Organized or disorganized
- Careful or careless
- Disciplined or impulsive

Extraversion

- Sociable or retiring
- Fun-loving or somber
- Affectionate or reserved

The “Big Five” Factors of Personality

Agreeableness

- Softhearted or ruthless
- Trusting or suspicious
- Helpful or uncooperative

Neuroticism (emotional stability)

- Calm or anxious
- Secure or insecure
- Self-satisfied or self-pitying

Links Between “Big Five” Personality Factors and Adjustment & Competence

- Among the five factors, conscientiousness best predictor of high school and college GPA. Openness best predictor of SAT verbal scores
- Study of 5th-8th grades: Conscientiousness linked to better interpersonal relationships (higher quality friendships, better acceptance by peers).
- Longitudinal study: Low conscientiousness predicted higher mortality risk from childhood through late adulthood.

Person-Situation Interaction Theory

The best way to characterize an individual's personality is not only in terms of personal traits or characteristics, but also in terms of the situation involved.

For example, an extraverted student will adapt best when asked to collaborate with others, whereas an introverted student will adapt best when asked to carry out tasks independently.

Children's Temperament

Easy

- Positive mood
- Establishes regular routines in infancy
- Adapts easily to new experiences

Difficult

- Reacts negatively, cries frequently
- Irregular daily routines
- Slow to accept change

Slow to Warm-Up

- Low activity level
- Somewhat negative
- Low intensity of mood