MAXIMIZING LEARNING POTENTIAL

Our brains are consistent in size, shape, and function across genders, ethnicities, and cultures. The brain is a series of bio-routers, transistors, and microchips that stores data via electro-chemicals and receptors. By itself, the brain takes information through our five senses and our internal auto-regulatory system, sorts and stores that information within milliseconds. In order to use the data the brain has sorted and stored we need an interpreter, something that can break the electrochemical and neuroreceptor code. The translator is our *mind*!

Our minds are an ambiguous, untraceable and individualized mental process that converts the data stored in our brains into thoughts and symbolic representations. The mind compares data, uses abstraction, makes judgments and is the core of our decision making. In order to be successful in any endeavor we need to understand and use our minds with intention.

The Learning Connections Inventory (LCI), is a specially developed questionnaire to determine the degree to which persons use or avoid four different learning processes as they interact within their own minds. The LCI seeks to identify how we process information through our simultaneous thoughts, feelings, and action that manifest themselves in four discrete patterns:

Use First Learning Patterns

Sequential
- I want clear directions
- I need step-by-step directions
- I want time to do my work neatly
- I dislike unplanned changes
- I want to know if I am meeting expectations

Precise
- I want complete and thorough explanations
- I ask a lot of questions
- I like to answer questions
- I need to be accurate and correct
- I like test results & written documents

Technical Reasoning
- I don't like to write things down
- I need to see the purpose or relevance
- I like to work by myself
- I like to figure how things work
- I don't like to use a lot of words

Confluence
- I don't like repetition
- I see situations differently than others
- I like to do things my own way
- I don't like following the rules
- I enjoy taking risks

Avoid Learning Patterns

Sequential
- I avoid direction; avoid practice
- I can't get the pieces in order
- I ignore table of contents, indexes, and syllabi
- I leave the task incomplete

Precise
- I don't have specific answers
- I avoid debate
- I skim instead of read
- I take few notes

Technical Reasoning
- I talk about it instead of doing it
- I avoid using tools or instruments
- I rely on reading or writing to find a solution
- I enjoy working in teams or group

Confluence
- I don't take social risks
- I complete one task at a time
- I avoid improvising
- I seek parameters

The vocabulary provided by the LCI helps each person explain and talk about who s/he is as an individual, and also provides strategies for how to use your personal learning processes with intention.

Use First Pattern Learning Strategies

Sequential
o Make sure that directions are clearly stated step-by-step
o Ask for a model or sample
o Take time to develop a plan

Precise
o Make sure that directions contain detailed information
o Look for words that ask for important facts or details
o Focus on the lecture and not note taking

Technical
o Make sure you understand the relevance of the assignment
o Demonstrate the practical application of the material
o When you think you are done writing, write more!

Confluent
o Negotiate alternative ways for completing an assignment
o Don't get discouraged if my idea is not used
o Stick to the task, don't let my mind wander

Avoid Pattern Learning Strategies

Sequential
o Double check your work to make sure it is complete
o Make a list of your priorities
o Check-off completed tasks

Precise
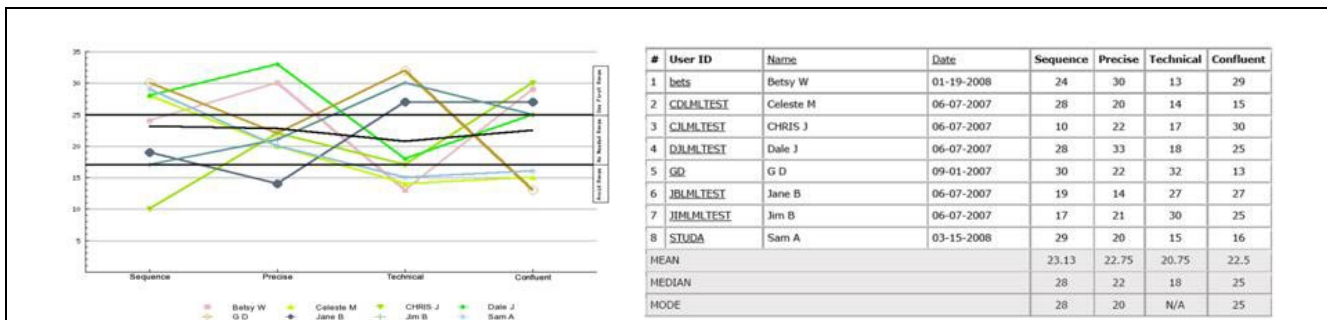o Don't trust your memory, write things down
o Answer questions using three full sentences
o If you have any doubts, ask questions for clarification

Technical
o Try communicating with fewer words and more action
o Practice using tools to see what they can do
o *Just do it!*

Confluent
o Ask others for ideas in order to get started
o Be willing to "let-go" and learn from a unique perspective
o Be willing to take risks with new ideas

#	User ID	Name	Date	Sequence	Precise	Technical	Confluent
1	bets	Betsy W	01-19-2008	24	30	13	29
2	CDLMLTEST	Celeste M	06-07-2007	28	20	14	15
3	CJLMLTEST	CHRIS J	06-07-2007	10	22	17	30
4	DJLMLTEST	Dale J	06-07-2007	28	33	18	25
5	GD	G D	09-01-2007	30	22	32	13
6	JBLMLTEST	Jane B	06-07-2007	19	14	27	27
7	JIMLMLTEST	Jim B	06-07-2007	17	21	30	25
8	STUDA	Sam A	03-15-2008	29	20	15	16
MEAN				23.13	22.75	20.75	22.5
MEDIAN				28	22	18	25
MODE				28	20	N/A	25

When a person understands the way that their mind translates data collected by their brain (learning patterns) they can identify and decode the challenges that confront them, then balance and apply their learning patterns to overcome that challenge. In order to be successful in any endeavor we need to understand and have the capacity to decode our individual learning, the systems we are working in, the learning patterns of the people we work with, and the task at hand.

Making Connections/Developing Insights/Enhancing Relations
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