

Learning Styles & The 4-MAT System

A helpful way to plan learning experiences

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- ▶ *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All of these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*

Why It Matters

- »» Your personal experience is evidence of the helpfulness of this approach to lesson planning.

Your learning gifts / styles

- ▶ Think about a learning experience that you have had that was particularly enjoyable for you.
- ▶ Briefly share that experience with your partner.
- ▶ Consider the following question:
 - *What about that experience made it such a positive one for you?*

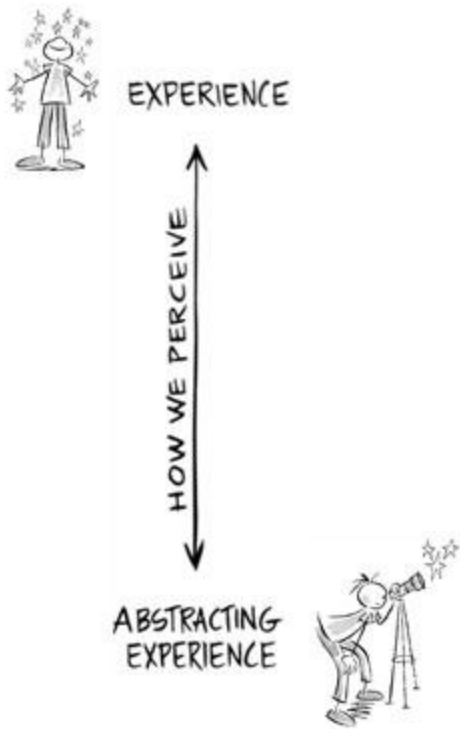
What You Need to Know

- » Information from experts about learning styles theory and the 4-MAT system will make your planning easier and more effective.

Dr. Bernice McCarthy



- ▶ Developed an instructional model to connect all types of learners
- ▶ Based on the work of Jung, Piaget, Vgotsky, Dewey, Lewin, & Kolb



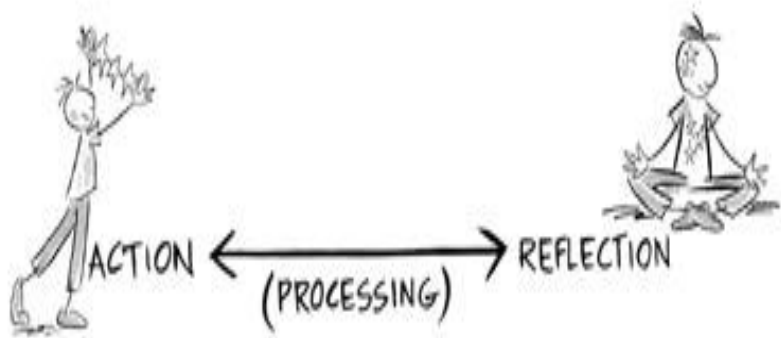
How we perceive

Human perception—the ways people take in new information—occurs in an infinite variety of ways, all of which range between experience and conceptualization.

Experience—Perception by personal engagement—sensations, emotions, physical memories; the immediate; the self. Being in it.

Conceptualization—The translation of experience in conceptual forms—ideas, language, hierarchies, naming systems. An abstract approach to learning. Being apart from it.

The interplay between the “feeling” of experience and the “thinking” of conceptualization is crucial to the learning process. It connects the personal values and perceptions of students to those of expert learners.



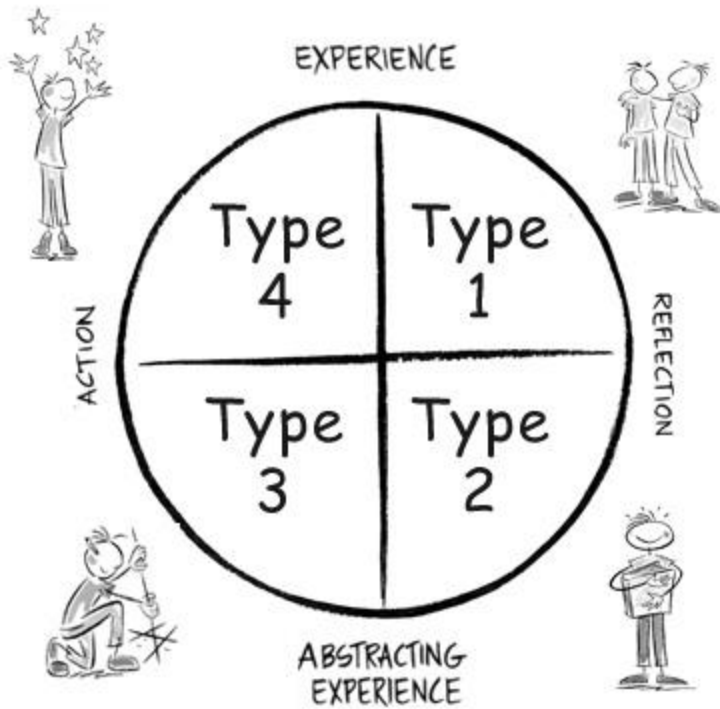
How we process

Human processing—what people do with new information—occurs in an infinite variety of ways, all of which range between reflection and action

Reflection—Transforming knowledge by structuring, ordering, intellectualizing.

Action—Applying ideas to the external world; testing, doing, manipulating.

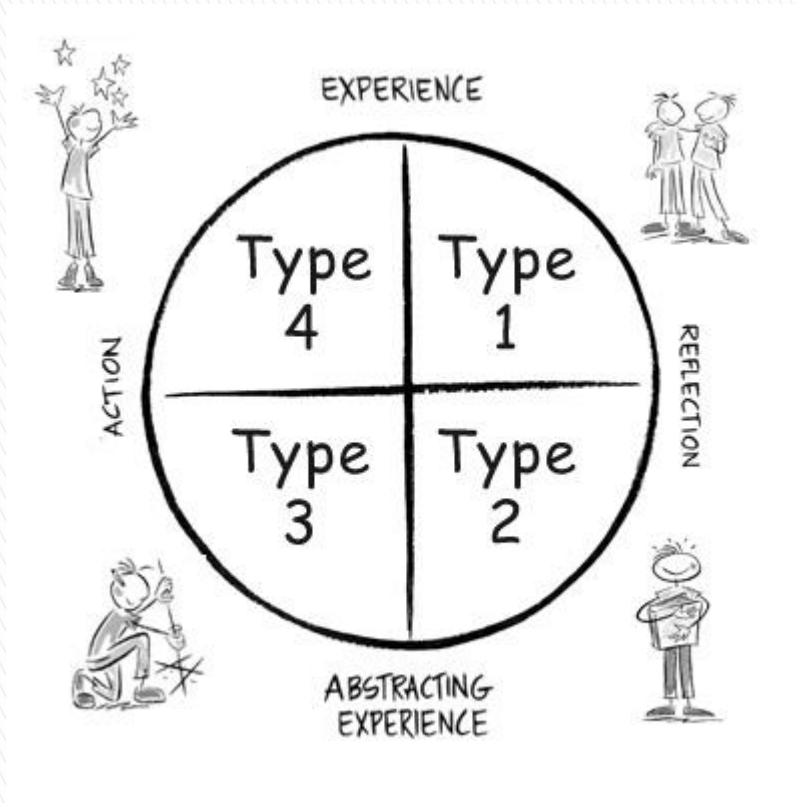
The interplay between the “watching” of reflection and the “doing” of action is crucial as it provides the impetus for acting on internal ideas. It encourages the learner to test ideas in the real world and adapt what they learn to multiple and ambiguous situations.



Perceiving + Processing = Learning Style

1. No one is purely one type of learner.
2. Most of us have a preferred style of learning.
3. Intelligence is equally distributed among all styles.

Type 1 = Imaginative Learner

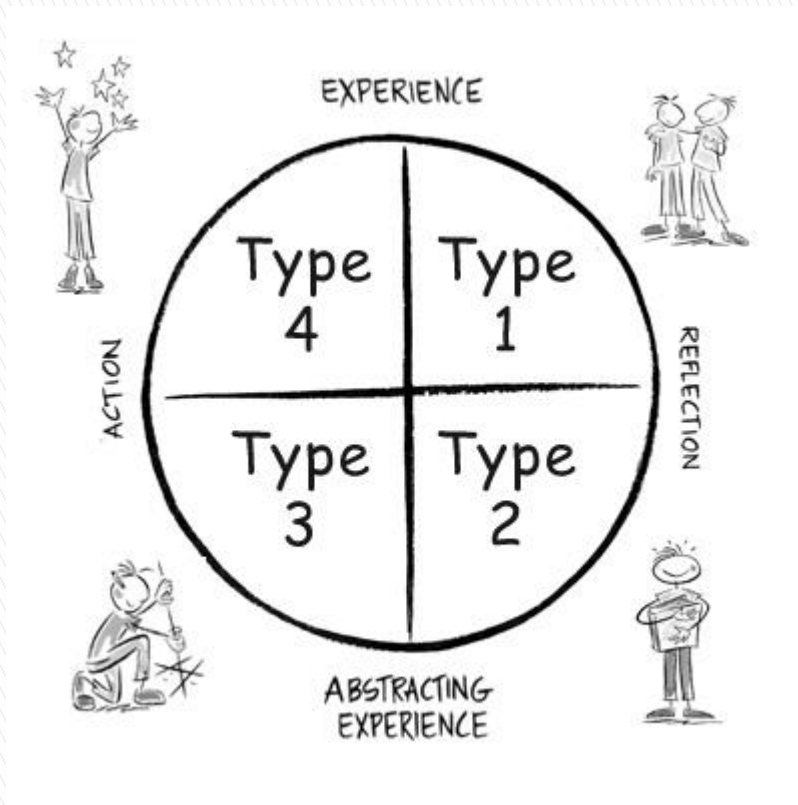


- ▶ Likes
 - Discussion & Interaction
- ▶ Dislikes
 - Lectures
 - Competition
 - Debate
- ▶ Needs
 - To be liked and accepted in order to learn well

Key Question is WHY?

Likes/Dislikes and Needs

Type 2 = Analytic Learner

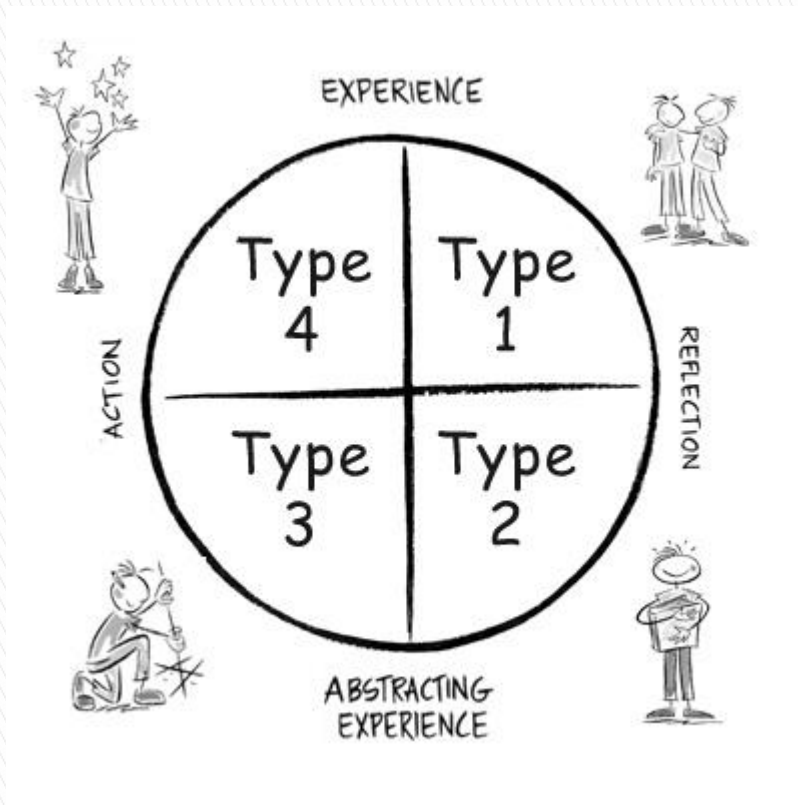


- ▶ Likes
 - Facts
 - Independent research
 - Analysis of data
 - Experts
- ▶ Dislikes
 - Discussion
 - Noise
 - Sitting in circles
- ▶ Needs
 - The world of ideas more than people

Key Question is WHAT?

Likes/Dislikes and Needs

Type 3 = Common Sense Learner



▶ Likes

- Developing plans of action
- Figuring out how things work
- Hands-on

▶ Dislikes

- Lectures
- Memorizing
- Lots of reading
- Being told how to do something

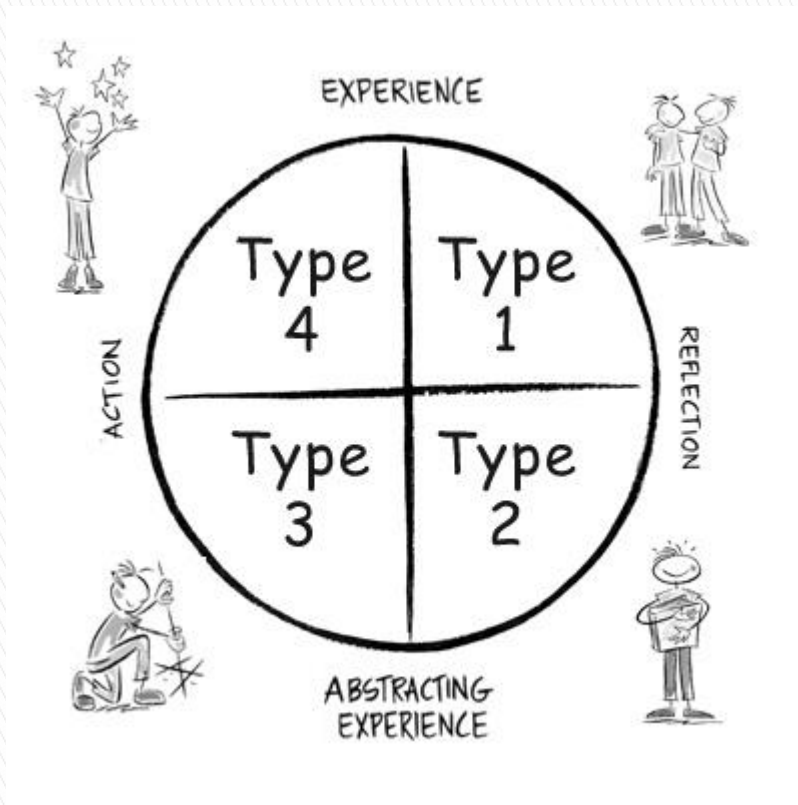
▶ Needs

- Concrete experiential learning activities

Key Question is HOW?

Likes/Dislikes and Needs

Type 4 = Dynamic learner



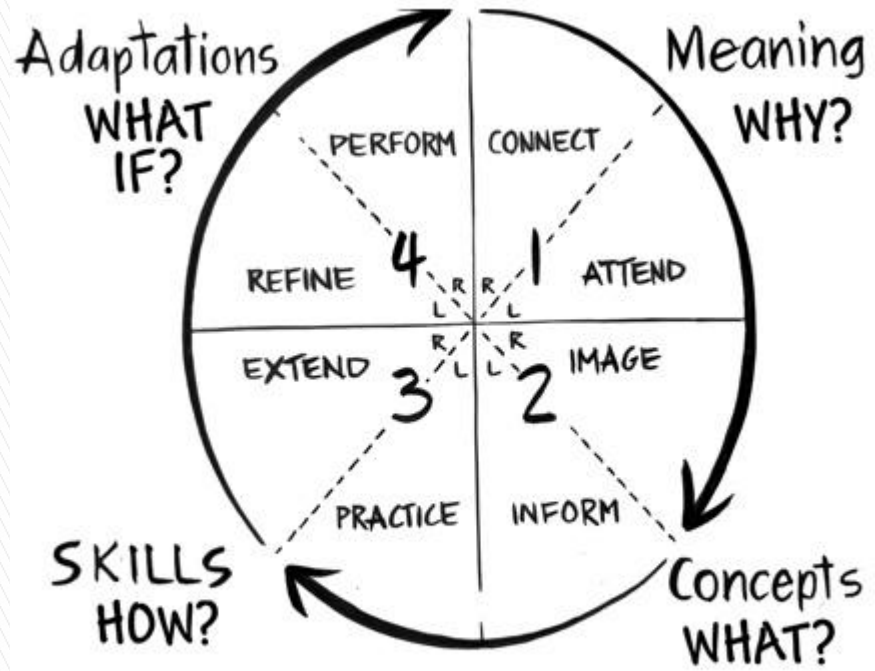
- ▶ Likes
 - Experimentation
 - Taking risks
 - Change
 - Learning in a variety of ways
- ▶ Dislikes
 - Routine
 - Rigid truths
- ▶ Needs
 - Opportunities for self-directed study

Key Question is WHAT IF?

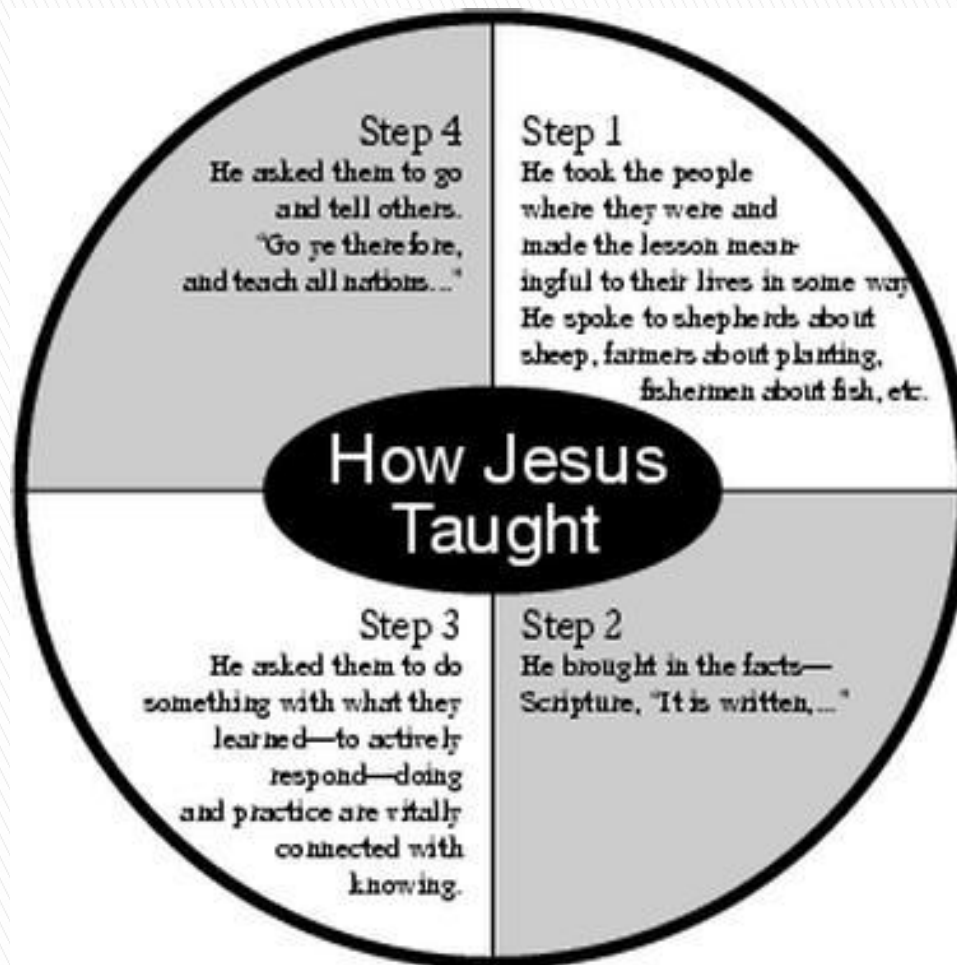
Likes/Dislikes and Needs

How It Comes Together

- » Organizing your knowledge of learning styles into a system can help you develop a plan of action for learning.



The 4-MAT System



Time to Practice
developing a Bible study



Time to Practice

developing a Bible study

John 6:1-13

So What?

- »» What are some of the ways you could apply this new learning in your life, your teaching, your training, your Chapel?