



Teaching Toolkit

Swap Shop

Summary

Students with different learning styles need practice in taking in information in different formats. The idea here is for them to be able to transfer one learning preference for another by changing the format of information.

Key Concepts

Preferred Learning Styles

Uses

Can be used in all subjects with all age groups

Organisation

The basic concept behind this activity is that the process of converting pieces of information from one style of presentation to another gives students the opportunity to develop their full range of learning styles. It forces them to think of different ways to view the same information.

It will be useful to have a poster around the room somewhere that you can quickly refer to. This might be best described as a "Presentation Toolbox". It would contain a list of the main ways that students might present information eg.

- Written Text
- Audio recording
- Diagrammatic
- Pictorial
- Storyboard
- Mind Map
- Video recording
- Powerpoint presentation, etc

Once this list has been produced then the task is simply a question of providing students with information in one of the formats and asking them to present it back in a different format. This makes a good homework exercise, especially where the format that they use does not involve the use of specialist equipment.

To get the most from an exercise such as this one, it is useful to have an indication of the learning styles preferred by each student. (*A full set of tests to identify learning styles is available free from the Response Education website). You may feel that you want to get students to practice using other learning styles to prepare them for future information and tasks that may come in styles that do not form a strong preference naturally for them. Equally you may feel that understanding the information is the key factor and deliberately play to the strengths of each student.



Variations

The basic exercise here allows for students to choose or be allotted presentation styles from the list provided. It may well be that rather than a single activity this is seen as a full programme, with students being able to choose which style they use, but knowing that over the course of several such activities they will have to use all of the styles.

Resources

“Presentation Toolbox” poster

(see next page for example)

Presentation Toolbox

- Powerpoint
- Mind Map
- Diagram
- Thinking Map
- Radio Feature
- TV News Item
- Storyboard
- Piece of Written Text
- Song
- Poem
- Drawing
- Piece of Drama
- Flowchart

