

An aerial photograph of a university campus during the golden hour of sunset. The sky is a mix of light blue and warm orange. The campus features numerous multi-story buildings, a prominent white tower with a clock face, and a large green lawn in the foreground. A dark red arrow-shaped graphic points from the left towards the center, containing the title and author information in white text.

Using Kolb's Learning Style Inventory to Teach Agricultural Writing Courses

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Introduction

How do student's learn best?

How can we incorporate their learning styles into practical activities in the classroom?





Problem Statement

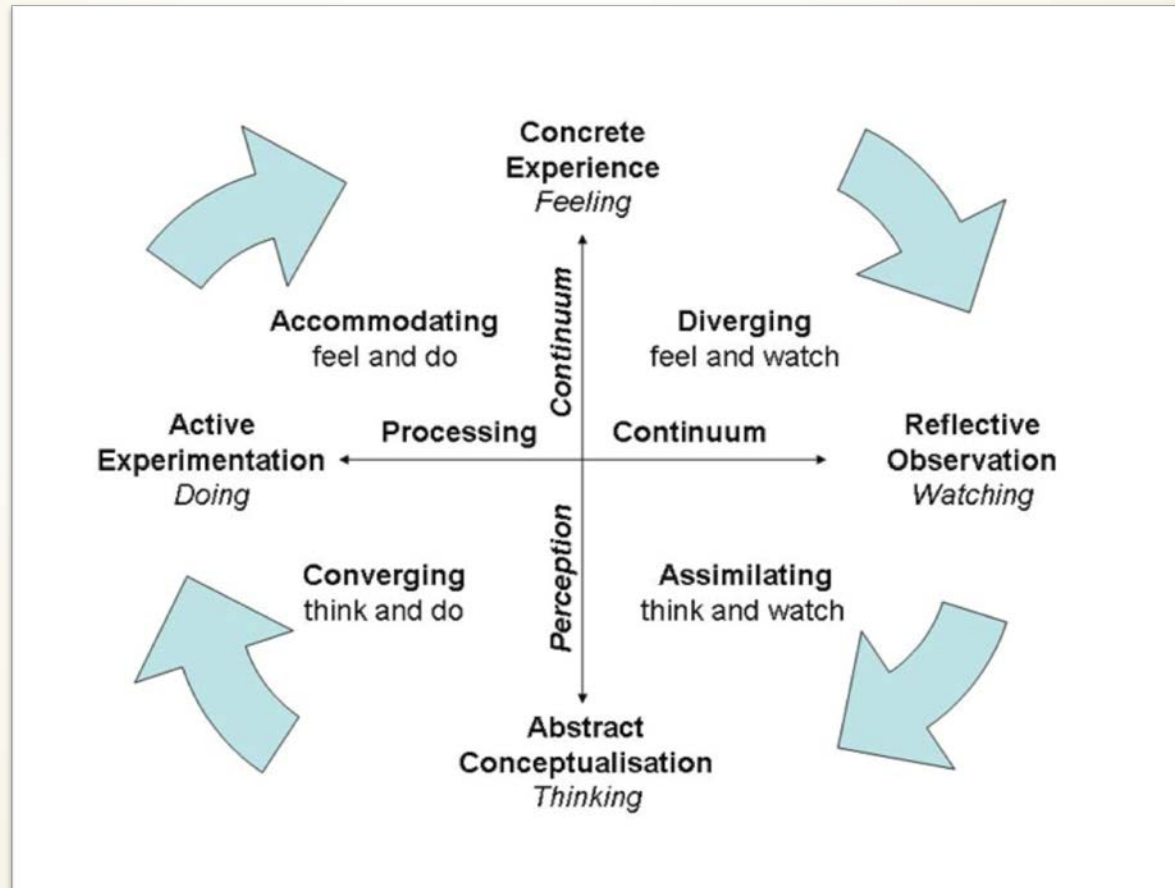
- Experiential learning best occurs when students actively reflect on their experiences.
- Understanding student's learning styles is especially helpful in developmental agricultural communications writing courses.



Research Objectives

- Describe students in developmental agricultural communications writing courses preferred learning style.
- Describe students in developmental agricultural communications writing courses preferred learning mode.

Theoretical Framework: Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle





Method

- Learning Style Inventory
- Demographics:
 - Intermediate writing course:
Fall 2018, $n = 57$; Spring 2019, $n = 35$
 - Advanced writing course:
Fall 2018, $n = 18$; Spring 2019, $n = 28$



Results

- Accommodative (CE/AE) learning style
 - Most preferred learning style
- Active experimentation
 - Most preferred learning mode ($M = 27.74$; $SD = 4.66$)
- Assimilative (AC/RO)
 - Least preferred learning style
- Reflective observation (RO)
 - Least preferred mode ($M = 23.36$; $SD = 4.33$)

Conclusions

- Experiential learning best occurs when students actively reflect on their experiences.
- Understanding student's learning styles is especially helpful in the agricultural communications discipline.





Recommendations

- Include hands-on writing exercises to target accommodative learners.
 - Guided reflection
 - Interpreting case studies
 - Group writing prompts
- Apply Kolb's learning theory to agricultural writing continuum by targeting all learning styles.

Questions?

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Thank you!

