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

McKenna Bush, Undergraduate Student, ALEC Department
Shannon Norris & Holli Leggette
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?

McKenna Bush, Undergraduate Research Assistant
bushmckenna@tamu.edu

Shannon Norris, Graduate Research Assistant
shannon.norris@tamu.edu

Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications at Texas A&M University

Thank you!