Learning Styles: The Four Modalities

Visual Preference
Students who have a visual strength or preference:
♦ want the teacher to provide demonstrations
♦ find it easy to learn through descriptions
♦ often use lists to keep up and organize thoughts
♦ often recognize words by sight
♦ often remember faces but forget names
♦ often have well developed imaginations
♦ are easily distracted by movement or action in the classroom
♦ tend to be unaware of noise
♦ Roughly 60% of students are visual learners.

Auditory Preference
Students who have an auditory strength or preference
♦ want the teacher to provide verbal instructions
♦ find it easy to learn by listening
♦ enjoy dialogues, discussions, and plays
♦ often remember names but forget faces
♦ often do well working out solutions or problems by talking them out
♦ are easily distracted by noise and often need to work where it is relatively quiet
♦ often do best using recorded books

Tactile Preference
Students who have a tactile strength or preference:
♦ do best when they take notes either during a lecture or when reading something new or difficult
♦ often like to draw or doodle to remember
♦ do well with hands-on activities such as projects, demonstrations, or labs

Kinesthetic Preference
Students who have a kinesthetic strength or preference:
♦ do best when they are involved or active
♦ often have high energy levels
♦ think and learn best while moving
♦ often lose much of what is said during lecture
♦ have problems concentrating when asked to sit and read
♦ prefer to do rather than watch or listen
♦ Most children are kinesthetic and become more tactile in the first grade

Need More Information?
Check out the ILS (Index of Learning Styles) or the VARK survey at the CSL

The Center for Student Learning at the Addlestone Library
843.953.5635 www.cofc.edu/~csl