

Advice: Picking Your Next Professor & Preferred Classroom Practices

Some learning experiences really work well for some students and badly for others. Knowing this about yourself can help you to take full advantage when things are as you like them, and to take extra steps to fill in the gaps when things aren't as helpful. Sometimes things won't go the way you like—it's up to you to do what you can to get what you need.

The following list contains some ideas of experiences that may be helpful or not helpful. Cross off the ones that don't work for you, and write in something that you could do if this happens, so that you can learn the material even if the experience wasn't what you prefer.

The teacher calls on students to answer questions.

The teacher gives pop quizzes.

Students work in groups in the classroom.

Teacher works with students individually.

The teacher assigns homework.

The teacher goes slowly.

The teacher goes quickly.

Students discuss the material.

Students are quiet.

Teacher is calm.

Teacher is energetic.

Teacher is positive.

Teacher is detail-oriented.

Teacher describes the big picture.

Teacher writes everything on the board.

Teacher writes words on the board.

Teacher writes only numbers and equations on the board, no words.

Teacher draws pictures.

Teacher uses overhead projector.

Teacher has students come to the board to do problems.

Teacher gives many examples.

Teacher gives definitions.

Teacher gives step-by-step instructions.

Teacher gives more than one method.

Teacher gives only one method.

Teacher gives partial credit.

Teacher gives multiple choice tests (no partial credit).

Teacher speaks student's first language.

Teacher describes general rules and patterns.

Teacher gives real-life examples.

Teacher explains several times.

Teacher answers questions.

Students participate in lecture.

Teacher gives more tests.

Teacher gives fewer tests.

Teacher gives less homework.

Teacher gives more homework.

Everything on this list is something that someone has requested of me at one time or another. A teacher tries to be all things to everyone, and can't possibly succeed.