

Quick Activities for Multiple Intelligences

Improving Your Teaching

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At SAVI, our instructional design uses the Multiple Intelligences as a basis to our curriculum. By tapping into HOW people learn, and using activities throughout a course that address different intelligences, your success in having your participants or students learn the material has a much higher probability. See the activities below as examples of how to address Multiple Intelligences in your teaching.

Existential Intelligence

Learners with existential intelligence are attuned to the human condition. They are able to comprehend issues like the significance of life and death and the experience of love.

Activities:

- Plan a charity event
- Maintain a current events notebook with a focus on humanitarian stories
- Locate and read romantic poetry

Inter/Intrapersonal Intelligence

Interpersonal learners understand the moods and motivations of others enabling them to work and communicate effectively. They enjoy social activities.

Activities:

- Interview another student
- Conduct a survey
- Lead group discussions
- Play a game with a friend
- Write a story with a partner
- Tutor a friend

Intrapersonal learners have a deep awareness of their own inner feelings. They have a strong sense of independence and self-confidence.

Activities:

- Write your autobiography
- Set personal goals
- Keep a diary or journal
- Evaluate your performance

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

Learners who possess bodily-kinesthetic intelligence have the ability to work skillfully with objects involving both fine and gross motor skills. They are characterized by a well-developed sense of balance and motor control. In addition, they are skillful at translating intention into action. These learners are most successful by doing.

Activities:

- Pantomime an activity, task, or chore
- Play a sport
- Play charades
- Act out a scene from a novel
- Perform a dance to express an emotion
- Learn sign language
- Plan and present a puppet show
- Go on a nature hike
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Exercise

Visual-Spatial Intelligence

Spatial intelligence is characterized by a person's capacity to perceive the visual world and recreate aspects of it even in the absence of relevant stimuli. This intelligence is fundamentally tied to the concrete world and the location of objects in that world.

Though spatial intelligence grows most directly out of one's observations of the visual world, it can develop in a blind individual and, therefore, visual and spatial are not inextricably linked.

Activities:

- Play chess
- Guess the mystery object inside a bag
- Make a map of your neighborhood
- Make a diorama
- Paint a picture that represents a story
- Make a video of a school event
- Create a poster to express your thoughts on a current event
- Create a mental image of the setting of a book
- Put together a jigsaw puzzle
- Wear a blindfold and try to walk around your classroom
- Daydream about a vacation
- Create a sculpture
- Solve a maze
- Play a board game

Musical/Naturalist Intelligence

No other intelligence emerges earlier than musical talent. Those who possess high levels of musical or rhythmic intelligence constantly hear tones, rhythms, and musical patterns in the environment and human voice, as well as music. The auditory sense is crucial, although not mandatory.

Activities:

- Write a song
- Write an advertising jingle
- Sing a song to the class
- Make up a cheer
- Attend a symphony
- Make a list of songs that calm, stimulate, or inspire you
- Tap the musical pattern or count the number of beats in a song

People with Naturalistic intelligence have an appreciation for the natural world around them. They possess the ability to classify and distinguish plants and animals in the environment.

Activities:

- Go on a nature hike
- Plant a garden
- Create an animal collage
- Identify leaf tracings
- Plan a nature scavenger hunt for others
- Listen to the sounds of nature on a tape
- Diagram the stars and constellations in the night sky
- Present a plant exhibit
- Learn the names of flowers
- Develop an animal card game
- Make a habitat diorama

Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

The logical-mathematical intelligence initially develops through observation, manipulation, and handling of physical objects. In time, the thinking becomes more abstract. This intelligence is closely related to scientific thinking and deductive reasoning.

Learners possessing this intelligence have the ability to recognize patterns, work with abstract symbols, and see relationships. They also have an intuition about solving problems, often seeing a solution before actually working out the problem.

As with the linguistic intelligence, learners who possess this intelligence are often perceived as being very smart because standardized tests focus on math skills.

Activities:

- solve a math problem using manipulatives
- add, subtract, multiply, or divide numbers
- make something using a recipe
- create a pattern using manipulatives
- conduct a scientific experiment
- mentally compute equations
- create a Venn diagram for a topic you are studying
- make an animal using tangrams
- create a time line
- play a counting game such as Mancala
- Compare and contrast two or more objects
- Solve analogies (leaves are to trees like petals are to ...)
- Make a graph to represent data
- Build something with blocks
- Classify objects
- Write a math story problem
- Play checkers
- Do a brain teaser
- Create an outline for a topic you are studying
- Measure several objects in the classroom

Verbal-Linguistic Intelligence

The power and love of the written and spoken word is at the heart of this intelligence. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are the activities that represent this intelligence. Learners who display this intelligence to a high degree are sensitive to the sounds and meanings of words and are typically very good at decoding. Additionally, these learners are seen as being very bright because school tasks and standardized tests tend to emphasize this intelligence.

Linguistic intelligence is the most democratically and widely shared. While, for example, a musician or artist exhibit abilities that seem mysterious to the average person, a poet or author is seen as possessing to a higher degree what most of us have within us.

Activities:

- Write poetry
- Read with a buddy or partner
- Solve a crossword puzzle
- Retell a story to a friend
- Write in a journal
- Learn a new word each day
- Listen to a lecture and take notes
- Give oral instructions for completing a task
- Write an acrostic poem
- Give a dramatic reading
- Write a sequel to a story
- Create a class newspaper
- Write and give a persuasive speech
- Solve scrambled words
- Write to a pen pal
- Participate in a debate
- Listen to a taped recording of a book
- Write a book review
- Write and perform a comedy routine
- Become a storyteller for a younger class
- Write a script for a television show
- Read a daily newspaper
- Create a tongue twister