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Essay on Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences

  *“If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.  - Ignacio Estrada*

This quote illustrates that instead of attempting to teach something one way only, that we should aspire to incorporate multiple ways of learning into what we are teaching, because people all have different ways of learning. Professor Howard Gardner, of Harvard University, decided to study the idea that everyone learns differently. After some time, he came up with The Theory of Multiple Intelligences. The theory states that there are nine different intelligences: Visual-spatial, Logical-mathematical, Verbal-linguistic, Bodily-kinesthetic, Musical-rhythmic, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Naturalistic, and Existential. Going over all of them in great detail would take too long, so I’ve decided to compile three of my best intelligences to explain and give examples for.

Verbal-linguistic is my most prominent Intelligence.  Being intelligent verbally-linguistically is usually characterized by enjoying reading and/or writing, learning best through auditory means, and being adept at public speaking.  Although lacking in the speech department, I do love to read and write. You will most often find me nose deep in a book, and I’m always enthusiastic about any sort of writing assignment. I am also a Writin’ Titan, which focuses on helping other people with composing essays and other sorts of writing assignments.

Second to Verbal-linguistic is my visual-spatial intelligence. Being observant, drawing well or enjoying to draw, and judging distances well are all traits of being visually-spatially intelligent. Besides reading, you will also sometimes catch me sketching on a spare piece of parchment or doodling in my notes. I also enjoy doing puzzles and mazes. Fun fact: I actually do my mazes backward, because it’s easier to avoid dead ends and the right path is easier to visualize within the pattern.

The third most prominent intelligence is logical-mathematical. People who are gifted in this area are usually skilled at deductive reasoning, thinking logically, and are proficient at solving puzzles. Being an enthusiast of science is another virtue of logical-mathematical people. I don’t know about you, but I relish in solving puzzles, math problems, and brain teasers of any sort. Mrs. Watson, my first and second grade teacher, would read us brain teasers after lunch/recess. It was probably was my favorite thing we would do during the day. I am also a HUGE nerd; and love science in any shape or form. Doing the labs or even just listening to Mr. Baker talk about science fascinates me.

Although these are my three top intelligences, there are many more that contribute to my character and how I learn, such as bodily-kinesthetic or interpersonal intelligences. They affect you too, and how you learn. So, it begs the question, “How do you learn?”