



Theories of Learning

Behaviorism:
Learning takes place when new behaviors or changes in existing behaviors arise as the result of an individual's response to stimuli.

Role of the Teacher:
To provide positive and negative consequences as needed to reinforce desired learning behaviors

Role of the Learner:
Is to respond to stimuli/ consequences until desired behaviors become permanent

Material Best Suited For Behaviorism:
Skill and Drill Tasks, Guided Practice, Classroom Discipline

Educational Paradigms That Mesh with Behaviorism:
Modeling, Shaping, Cueing

Major Proponents:
Ivan Pavlov, B.F. Skinner, Edward Thorndike, John B. Watson, Clark Hull

Role of the Teacher:
Teacher acts as a facilitator by guiding students in the creation of their own understanding and supporting their understanding with additional information

Role of the Learner:
Active participant in the construction of meaning from prior experience and information. Attempts to make sense of the information presented

Material Best Suited For Constructivism: Historical Investigations, Political Issues/Debate, Scientific Inquiry, Literary Criticism

Constructivism:
Learning takes place as individuals actively develop connections between prior knowledge and experience to create their own novel meanings, schemas, and world concepts

Educational Paradigms That Mesh with Constructivism:
Reciprocal Questioning, Jigsaw Classroom, Structured Controversies, Cooperative ...

Major Proponents:
Jean Piaget, John Dewey, Lev Vygotsky, Jerome Brunner, David Ausubel, Seymour Papert

Role of the Teacher:
To understand that students bring a variety of prior knowledge and experiences to the learning environment and to determine the best way to link new knowledge to prior learning

Role of the Learner:
To assimilate new information and experiences. To integrate new information with prior knowledge stored in the long term memory

Cognitivism:
Learning takes place when information is filtered through the senses the short term/working memory and then moved to long term storage where it can be accessed and modified

Material Best Suited For Cognitivism:
Reading Comprehension Skills, Completing Any Complex Multi-Stage Learning Tasks/Skills

Major Proponents:
Kurt Lewin, Robert Gagne, R. C. Anderson, Benjamin Bloom

Educational Paradigms That Mesh with Cognitivism:
Imagery, Mnemonics, Hierarchical Organization, Meta-Cognition, Rehearsal, Elaboration