Facilitating Character Development and Intellectual Growth

Authoritative: Lecture; Discipline; Lack of interaction between student and instructor

Democratic: Diverse style of teaching; Uses different ways to present information to students; Difficult to accommodate for all students

Facilitative: Allows students to question and analyze information through exploration; Focusses on discovery, forgets about memorization and straightforward learning of facts

Intuitive: Close bond between instructor and students; Blended teaching methods; Instructor may spread themselves too thin

Delegative: Guided discovery activities; Relies on group work; Free (lack) of authority; Heavy feedback

Hybrid: Uses teaching personality and student learning styles to create a specific style of teaching; Teacher may become overwhelmed trying to appease to all students

It is essential that the teaching style used is able to help all students, not just the majority. Being able to connect and teach students effectively allows for children to grow intellectually and mature as a student. Students who are learning the way they want to learn can become more confident in themselves. They also learn to value education. The teacher must also be comfortable with the specific style of teaching in order for it to be effective.

Previous Research

According to many different studies, certain combinations of the big five personalities can predict overall GPA performance. Researchers have also found the connection between academic achievement and learning styles. Adding on to that, some researchers believe that in order for a student to reach his or her full potential, with high academic success, we must combine the student's learning style with an effective teaching strategy (Steinberg and Zhang, 2001). This claim has not previously been able to be proven for all personality types. The students rated their agreeableness on a scale (1-3-5). The score (the average of the ratings for each personality type) from the questionnaire determined which personality category each student fit into.

What’s The Plan?

The students from the Lakeland STARs program participated in an activity we created for them. They taught the kids about recyclable materials and the way they can be reused to make something. The students were then broken up into groups and told to create a certain environment, habitat, or place, after being given used materials.

The students are able to participate in a lecture, demonstration, and hands-on activity. This encourages some common teaching strategies that are effective in teaching children. In order to have the most effective teaching method during the activity, we also made sure each child was comfortable and paid attention to. This allows us to form a relationship with the student, even if they are not our tutor.

Following the activity, each student was given a questionnaire with 40 questions, each pertaining to a specific personality. The children rated their agreeableness on a scale (1-3-5). The score (the average of the ratings for each personality type) from the questionnaire determined which personality category each student fit into.

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