## Tara Cozens Learning Styles Summary EDUC 525

Dr. Keith Howard

## Aguilar, Julie

Learning Styles Inventory Given (i.e. Vark, Felder-Soloman, etc.):

* The student was given the Vark test

Date & Location Administered:

* Monday, March 7, 2011
* Carr Intermediate School after completing an exam in her Algebra I class

General Tendencies Observed:

* Despite my expectations, Julie’s test results show that she is actually very well-rounded in each category of learning style. According to the Vark test, her learning style is mainly centered around visual and aural learning, but it shows that she will also learn nearly equally as well when given a curriculum that incorporates both reading-writing and kinesthetic learning styles as well.

How Tendencies Compare to Your Teaching Methods:

* Most of my teaching style is visual- and aural-oriented, as is probably the case in the majority of Algebra classrooms. Direct instruction generally dominates a mathematics curriculum, so those students who learn best aurally are maybe at the most advantage. As a teacher, I try as often as possible to include visual references and guides to accompany the topics in order to accommodate students that might need instruction that is more visually-based. Because I myself am a very visual person, this makes the most sense to me to do, and it is the easiest for me to make these adaptations. With a student like Julie, this has always been a perfectly fine way to teach because not only is she self-motivated and intelligent, but it turns out that she does actually learn well with this aural and slightly-visual kind of instruction.

Impact on Your Teaching (if any, otherwise, explain why not):

* Julie is generally a very high-scoring student in my class, and to the best of my knowledge she does very well in all of her other classes, too. I was expecting her to be classified as mainly an aural learner because of this success that she has always had in a traditional classroom. But now, knowing how balanced her learning style is, I am wondering how important it is to have a more well-rounded teaching style, especially in a math classroom, where the majority of the lessons are aurally-centered and this may not be beneficial to students who learn best kinesthetically or visually. It could be most beneficial to the students to adapt a classroom for those students who may learn best, or at least enjoy, different methods of learning. I think that in order to ensure better understanding for your students, or even if it is just for the sake of the creating a well-rounded, not-so-static learning environment for the students, it is absolutely important to vary instruction and incorporate methods of teaching that will include other learning styles like kinesthetic and reading and writing. There are many ways that a teacher could adapt an Algebra classroom to accommodate both kinesthetic and reading-writing learning styles, but I think the first step to having this well-rounded classroom is recognizing that a teacher needs to first step out of their “comfort zone” of teaching and do their best to create such a classroom.