

Sternberg's Triarchic Theory of Successful Intelligences

Adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Sternberg 2010

Robert Sternberg:

- Psychologist from Yale and Tufts as well as the head of the American Association of Psychologists (He got a “C” in Intro to Psychology!)
- Believes intelligence has three facets, that there are three types of intelligence called upon to succeed in life:
 - Analytical Intelligence – “Schoolsmarts”
 - Creative Intelligence – “Unique Insight”
 - Practical Intelligence – “Streetsmarts”

Researchers are also now exploring a fourth facet – “wisdom,” the capacity to meaningfully use what you’ve learned for the common good. (Sounds like an expedition product to me!)

Analytical Learners like

- Analyzing characters and situations
- Comparing and contrasting
- Criticizing own and others’ work
- Judging behavior
- Explaining difficult problems to others
- Sorting and classifying
- Inferring and concluding
- SCHOOL!

Creative Learners like

- Designing
- Coming-up with ideas
- Playing make-believe
- Thinking of alternatives
- Thinking in pictures and images
- Supposing things were different
- Composing/drawing/writing
- Acting and role-playing

Practical Learners like

- Real-world applications
- To use skills to solve real or meaningful problems
- To know “why” they are learning something
- To interact with people – to “read” them

We have all three intelligences, but school is oriented toward analytical learners. However, Sternberg’s research shows that students gain on analytical measures (standardized tests) when they are taught and work in *all three ways*. By offering task choices in addition to analytical measures, you broaden students’ opportunities to work in different ways.