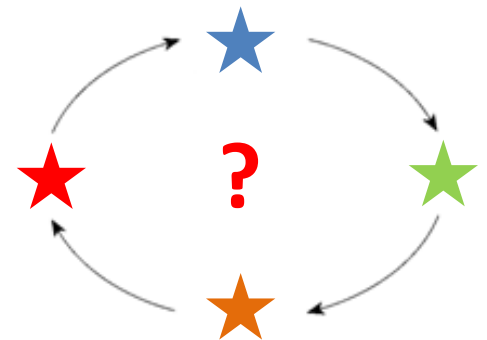


“Based upon observations of secondary school classroom teaching, is there any evidence to support the key ideas of **Kolb Experiential Learning Theory (ELT)**, and related models of learning styles?”



Motivation for research

Prime objective of a professional teacher is to *facilitate* the process of students' learning

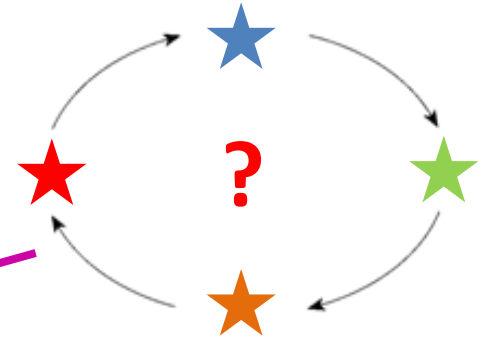
Learning objectives

Scheme of work

Ideas, Facts, Methods

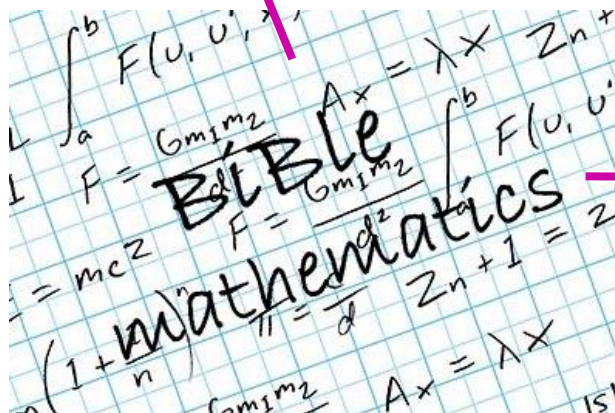


What is this mechanism? Can we model it?



Assessment

Develop **Knowledge, Attitude, Skills**
(Bloom & Krathwohl, 1956)





Major work:
Experiential Learning Theory (ELT)
 and *Learning Styles*
 (1984)

David A. Kolb (1939-)

Professor of Organizational Behaviour, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. USA.

“Learning involves social transactions between a developing person and the environment”
 Kolb (1984) p38.
 Kolb (1984) p38.
 “experiential” record, not knowledge of the future.”
 Kolb (1984)

Associated ideas



Kurt Lewin

1890-1947

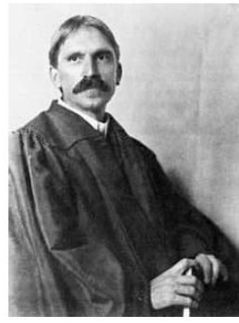
Feeling, Watching, Thinking Doing
 Learning cycle



Jean Piaget

1896-1980

Four stages of cognitive development



John Dewey

1859-1952

Impulse, Knowledge, Judgement spiral



Howard Gardner

1943-

Theory of Multiple Intelligences

Key influences on Kolb



Activist ★
Having an experience

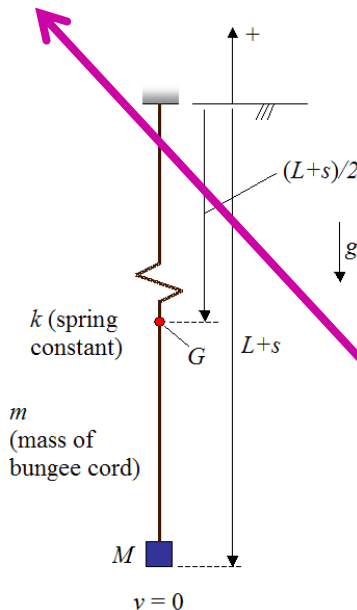


★ **Pragmatist**
Planning the next steps

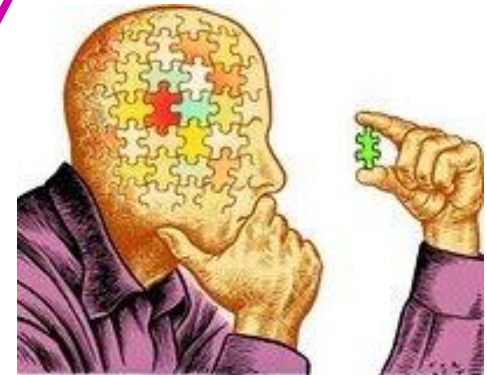


[David A. Kolb](#)
(1939-)

Reflector ★
Reviewing the experience

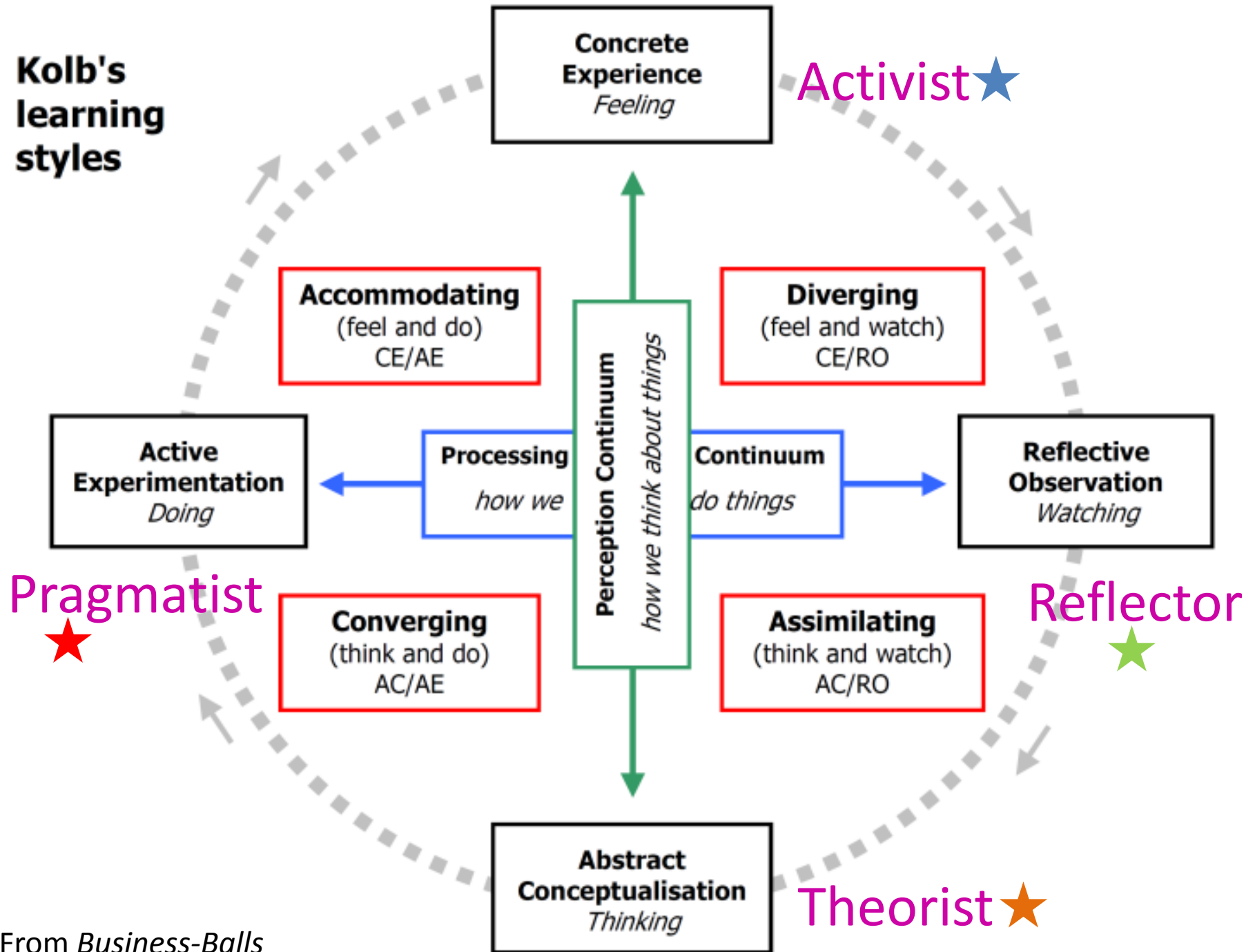


Theorist ★
Concluding from the experience



[Honey & Mumford's](#)
(1982) interpretation of
Kolb's *Learning Styles*

Kolb's learning styles

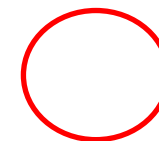


Concrete (Humanities important)

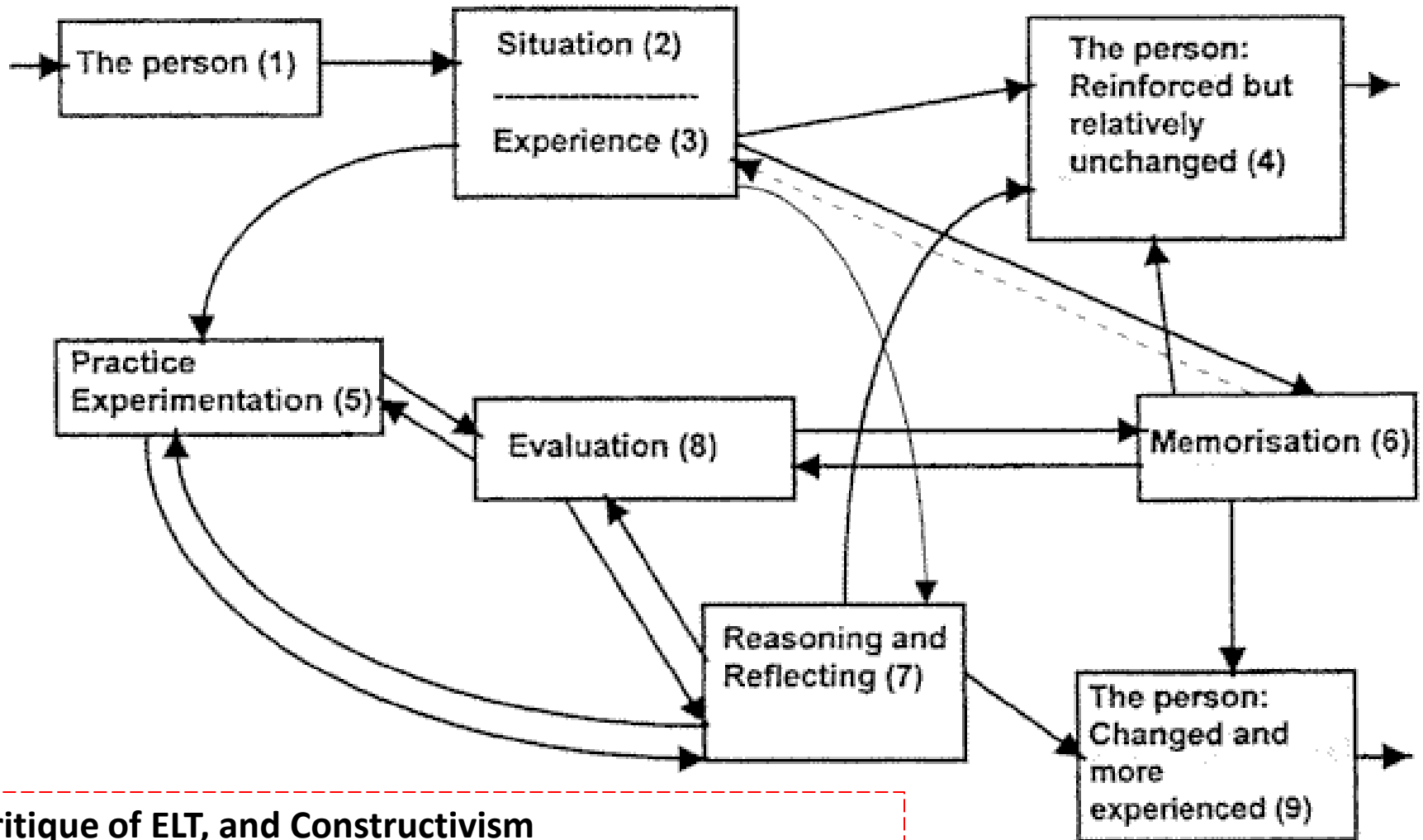
FEELING



Kolb's *Learning Style Inventory* plots typical scores from different professions on a grid parameterized according to perpendicular "thinking - feeling" and "doing - watching" dimensions which are associated with the Kolb ELT. Svinicki (1987)



For debate!



Critique of ELT, and Constructivism

Smith (2010), Kirshner (2006).

- No cultural context
- Real learning may not occur in the ideal Kolb fashion
- Ideological, not evidence based
- Kolb doesn't define what "reflection" means

Development of
Kolb's learning cycle
Jarvis (1987)

Practitioner research /case study

Qualitative, descriptive study based upon observations and reflections of typical classroom practice rather than a controlled ‘experiment.’

Reflective diary

Lesson observations

2013-2014

- 17 teachers observed, different classes, topics and subjects
- State Academy
- Fee paying Boarding School

Observations

STUDENT AS ACTOR

Activist★

Direct experience

Recall of experience★

Inclass experience (Lab)

Simulations★

Films/tapes★

Lecture examples★

Pragmatist★

Field work

Projects★

Case studies★

Lecture★

STUDENT
AS
RECEIVER

Rhetorical questions
in lecture★

Discussion★

Logs★

Labs

Homework

Simulations★

Examples★

Thought questions
for readings

Brainstorming★

Journals

Reflector★

Lecture analogies, descriptions

Text reading★

Model critiques★

Paper, project proposals

Model building exercises

Application of
Kolb's ELT to the
Classroom.
Svinicki (1987)

Theorist★

Summary

● My own professional development this year

● Experiences of my students

