
Identifying Teaching Style--My Estimate (ITS-Me)

Directions: Each of the following statements describes a common aspect of classroom teaching. For each statement, select the response option that best reflects how you typically approach teaching. After making your first selection, simply follow the directions to the next applicable item. Your responses will help you identify the teaching-style profile that most closely reflects your current instructional practice.

1. When planning instruction for my students:

- ☐ a. I primarily determine the objectives and learning activities that students need in order to master the subject matter.

→ **Continue to Item 2**

- ☐ b. I allow students' needs, goals, and interests to play a major role in shaping the objectives and activities for learning.

→ **Continue to Item 3**

2. When establishing learning goals for my class:

- ☐ a. I determine the learning objectives and then guide students through the steps needed to achieve them.

- ☐ b. I determine the learning objectives but also involve students in identifying needs and shaping how those goals will be pursued.

→ **Go to the *Your Style* table for your Teaching Style Profile**

3. In my classroom:

- ☐ a. I guide students in identifying problems and goals while providing structure to help them move toward solutions.

- ☐ b. I encourage students to define their own problems, work at their own pace, and help determine how their learning will be evaluated.

→ **Go to the *Your Style* table for your Teaching Style Profile**

Your Style

Use the table to identify your teaching style. Then turn the page over for the Descriptions of Teaching Styles.

Your Response		Teaching Style Profile
1a	2a	Distinctly Teacher-Centered
	2b	Moderately Teacher-Centered
1b	3a	Consistently Learner-Centered
	3b	Decidedly Learner-Centered

Distinctly Teacher-Centered Teachers

Overview: Teachers with this style believe that effective learning occurs when the teacher provides clear direction and structure. They typically determine learning objectives and organize instruction in ways that guide students step-by-step through the material.

Typical Characteristics: Teachers with this style often: ✓establish clear learning objectives, ✓organize instruction carefully, ✓present material in a logical sequence, ✓guide students through the learning process, and ✓emphasize mastery of essential knowledge.

Strengths of This Style: This style often creates: ✓clear expectations for students, ✓well-organized instruction, ✓strong coverage of essential content, and ✓efficient progress through learning material. Students frequently appreciate the clarity and direction that this style provides.

Moderately Teacher-Centered Teachers

Overview: Teachers with this style maintain responsibility for guiding the learning process but also make adjustments based on students' needs and abilities. They balance instructional direction with attention to the individual characteristics of their students.

Typical Characteristics: Teachers with this style often: ✓establish learning objectives while considering student needs, ✓adapt instruction to different learners, ✓encourage questions and interaction, ✓incorporate students' experiences into instruction, and ✓provide guidance while remaining flexible.

Strengths of This Style: This approach often produces: ✓well-structured learning environments, ✓responsiveness to student differences, ✓a balance between direction and flexibility, and ✓effective support for a wide range of learners.

Consistently Learner-Centered Teachers

Overview: Teachers with this style believe that learning is most effective when students actively participate in shaping their learning experiences. They encourage students to identify problems, explore ideas, and contribute to the learning process.

Typical Characteristics: Teachers with this style often: ✓involve students in identifying problems to explore, ✓encourage students to participate in planning learning activities, ✓adapt instruction to student interests and abilities, ✓support students in developing their own learning goals, and ✓guide students as they work toward solutions.

Strengths of This Style: This approach often results in: ✓high levels of student engagement, ✓strong development of independent thinking, ✓meaningful connections between learning and real-life problems, and ✓collaborative learning environments.

Decidedly Learner-Centered Teachers

Overview: Teachers with this style place a strong emphasis on learner autonomy. Students are encouraged to take significant responsibility for defining problems, directing their learning, and evaluating their progress.

Typical Characteristics: Teachers with this style often: ✓encourage students to define their own learning problems, ✓allow students to work at their own pace, ✓involve students in determining evaluation criteria, ✓support learners in directing their own learning activities, and ✓emphasize independence and self-direction.

Strengths of This Style: This style often promotes: ✓strong learner independence, ✓self-directed learning skills, ✓personal responsibility for learning, and ✓deep engagement with meaningful problems.