

Maria Dolores Garcia Campos

Senior Lecturer, University of Alcala, Spain

Cristina Canabal Garcia

Senior Lecturer, University of Alcala, Spain

Guillermina Gavaldon Hernandez

Senior Lecturer, University of Alcala, Spain

&

Carmen Lopez- Escribano

Senior Lecturer, Universidad Complutense De Madrid, Spain

Universal Design for Learning: Attending the Different Ways of Learning

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an educational model focused on removing barriers to learning. UDL is based on three principles aimed to diversify the forms of representation (Principle I), forms of action and expression (Principle II) and forms of engagement in learning (Principle III). Each principle is developed through teaching strategies or guidance which can be applied to the whole curriculum leading in this way the teaching practice.

This paper focuses on the DUA's second principle: allow students to act and express their learning in different ways. Each person learns in a unique way, some of them prefer to learn and demonstrate their learning by manipulating objects, others by reading text or images, and some others learn when they listen an oral explanation. In the same way, some people work better in groups while for others this can be an impediment for learning.

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the reasons why it is convenient to help students to explore their own learning process in order to let them to identify weaknesses, strengths and learning preferences as well to steer them to demonstrate their learning in different ways.

It is necessary to promote strategies that respect this diversity and the synergic groups that are endorsed during the teaching process. To reflect on the benefits of this approach could be very helpful to the diversity of students.

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8 Valaoritou Street
Kolonaki, 10671 Athens, Greece
www.atiner.gr

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