

Comparative Organizer

Dewey - Interactional

1. What is/are the common/accepted name(s) for the theory?

Experiential Education, Constructivist, Progressive Education, Cognitivist, Reflective Thinking, Theory of Inquiry, Naturalist, Pragmatism, Reflex Arc Concept, Unit of Theory and Practice,

2. Who are the representative theorists (individuals known to be associated with this theory)?

Howard Gardner, Jerome Bruner, Lev Vygotsky, Jean Piaget, Maria Montessori, Thorndike, Seymour Papert, William Kilpatrick

3. From this theoretical perspective, what are the key factors that influence learning?

- Motor powers that are exercised in constructive work to lead to new discoveries in knowledge
- Personal experiences allow the learner to learn best, or “learning by doing”
- The social importance of activities and the ability to practice those activities helps to achieve learning
- More knowledge is gained, when learners look at content that interest them, not given to them in a “kill and drill” manner
- Knowledge is better retained when learners are encouraged to go through the problem solving process
- Group work that is project-based and discovering new solutions and what does or doesn’t work well
- Incorporating music, dancing, and play into cooperation with home and school leads to a richer learning process
- Children are not blank slates, but active and educators need to take hold of their activities and give them direction.
- Children have 4 basic “native impulses”: communicate, construct, inquire, and to express
- Children’s own interests are incorporated into the learning process

4. What is the role of the teacher/instructor in the learning process?

- Create a desire for knowledge
- Serve as a guide and not a task master
- Guide the learners’ development and take into account their physical, mental, social, and spiritual development
- Use the outdoors for the learner’s physical needs
- Construct an environment that includes activities of the child and problematic situations.
- Direct a child’s development by indirection
- Help the subject matter become part of the child’s experience
- Help children receive self-realization

5. What is the role of the student/learner?

- Student/learner centered

- Self-governed according to the needs of the community
- Actively engaged
- Intrinsically motivated
- To: communicate, construct, inquire, and express
- Solve problems using their own knowledge and skills of science, history and art.

6. What are the types of learning best explained by this position?

- Experiential – learning by having an experience and then reflecting on it to make sense of it.
- Discovery – learning by solving problems and involvement in scenarios.
- Lived practices – learning by socializing and participating in a community.
- Inquiry – learning by asking questions and applying new information.

7. What are some basic strategies used to exemplify this theory?

- Creating situations where the learner has a problem that needs to be solved.
- Learners need to be involved in the learning process.
- Learning should cover a broad topic and allow for the learner to discover.
- Learning topics should be focused on the student's interests.
- Learning should be directly related to real-life.

8. What are this theory's major strengths/weaknesses?

Weaknesses:

Too far from the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic

Critics see learning as play and activities instead of structured learning.

Learners wouldn't choose to learn important topics, they would choose fun topics.

Strengths:

Learners are encouraged to buy into their learning.

Approached learning as an interactive process between the teacher and students.

9. What are some good references (articles/websites) pertaining to this theoretical perspective?

- Dewey's Political Philosophy by Matthew Festenstein
Includes Dewey's early influences and impact after his death. Also includes his approach to politics and values.
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/dewey-political/>
- Experience and Reflective Thinking, Learning, School and Life, Democracy and Education.
Chronologically describes Dewey's life, especially publishing dates of books and career changes. Includes his views on learning in life like situations and how that translates to a classroom.
<http://education.stateuniversity.com/pages/1914/Dewey-John-1859-1952.html>

- John Dewey
Includes Dewey's views in philosophy, pragmatism, and democracy.
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/160445/John-Dewey>
- John Dewey
Wiki focuses on Dewey's view of education. Specifically reviews his contributions to pragmatism, experiential learning, and progressive education.
<http://mindmaps.wikispaces.com/John+Dewey>
- Pioneers in Our Field: John Dewey – Father of Pragmatism.
Covers Dewey's pragmatism and includes how to incorporate his approaches and his beliefs on the topic.
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/pioneers-our-field-john-dewey-father-pragmatism>
- Experience – Based Learning Theory by Bob Russell
Includes several leaders in the constructivist field such as Dewey, Piaget, Vygotsky, Bruner, and Gardner.
<http://www.informallearning.com/archive/1999-0304-a.htm>
- John Dewey PowerPoint
A PowerPoint highlighting Dewey's views on education and a comparison of what the beliefs of education were at the time.
<http://www.slideshare.net/lrickes/john-dewey-powerpoint>
- John Dewey's Theories of Education by W. F. Warde
An overview of Dewey's view on education. Includes his interactions with contemporaries and how they agreed or disagreed.
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/novack/works/1960/x03.htm>
- How progressive education gets it wrong by Williamson M. Evers
Reviews what progressive education is and why it is wrong and what is still good about it.
<http://www.hoover.org/publications/hoover-digest/article/6408>

10: Favorite John Dewey Quotes:

1. "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."
2. "Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another."
3. "Failure is instructive. The person who really thinks learns quite as much from his failures as from his successes."
4. "The belief that all genuine education comes about through experience does not mean that all experiences are genuinely or equally educative."
5. "Education, therefore, is a process of living and not a preparation for future living."