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HIST 403

Learning Styles Paper

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Native American Learning

Children from all different backgrounds will grow up differently. Most will represent their tribe or area from which they are from. Not one group will be exactly the same. This can be challenging when having to combine children together in school because the learning styles will not match up. You cannot just teach it one way when a child will not understand it in that way. Teachers will have to adapt to make sure each student is able to grow to their full potential. Discussed will be the Native American Learning styles, differences from the Europeans and how they can adapt and learn.

First the Native American learning styles in the tribe. According to the article: "Learning Strategies for Native Americans" they state that most Native Americans incorporate a traditional learning style in their daily lives. They also said that internal language is used with pictures and emotions. Zarrillo states that Native Americans learned by observations and direct experiences. When you see films or other role plays you can see that most Native Americans use their bodies to tell stories and to learn in different ways. Stated in "Learning Strategies for Native Americans" was that they like to know that they are in a safe place and no harm will take place. This can be scary at big schools because you will not know everyone especially if you are a new student coming in. Native Americans do not like to be singled out and like to form a group to

learn this was also stated in “Learning Strategies for Native Americans”. Native American high school dropout rates tend to be much higher than the general population (Rhodes).

The Europeans were more based on sitting in a classroom with other students and having a teacher lecture or teach the lesson. When Native Americans started transitioning into their schools this caused the problems with the dropouts and not continuing to college or further education. Most have low self-esteem and lack of pride in being “Indian” according to (Soldier, 162). A lot of Native Americans also faced racism and prejudice in many areas where the population is greater for them. This could cause them to want to drop out because they are ridiculed in schools and made fun of. This is not fair to them because they deserve the same opportunities as the Europeans or whoever is in the school. They need to adapt to different ways of teaching that way each child gets what he or she needs.

Ways to adapt could be to get extra help when needed. The student could talk to the teacher to see if they could get extra time to finish an assignment or test. Most teachers would be more than willing to help the student out because they want all of their students to succeed and accomplish their goals in life. The task will not be easy there will be bumps along the road but the thing is to never give up because if you give up what are you really achieving.

In all Native Americans have had to adapt too many new things over the years. With the Europeans coming in and taking over their land, wars occurring and even making the transition into new schools and learning styles. We can continue to help these students by guiding them in the right path and to further their education.

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