

Learning Theories Synthesis Paper

Summer Practicum

The purpose of this paper is to synthesize your current understandings of the development and major ideas of the major learning theories: behaviorism, cognitivism, constructivism, and sociocultural theory (i.e. social constructivism, situated cognition, etc.). This is not a reflection; it is instead a well-organized and researched synthesis drawing upon in-class discussions, readings, and your own research. Please write in a style and level commensurate with graduate school and utilize the guide below. Provide references for information found outside of the course readings. References for the readings provided during the course are not necessary.

Format requirements: 3-4 pages, single space, in 12-point font.

Due: Wednesday

Please include:

- An overview linking the development of the four learning theories. The following prompts may help think this through:
 - What prompted each of the learning theories?
 - What is the “family tree” of the theories? Are they linked together in a linear progression from simple to complex or is the relationship between them more complicated?
 - Who is/are most credited with the development of each theory?
- A discussion of the main “take-home” messages of each theory and how they relate to the work of a classroom science or mathematics teacher.
- A description of the theory or combination of theories that most resonates with you. In addition, describe how the activities of the summer camp (lesson, small group teams) can be viewed through this lens.