THE EXCEL PROJECT

Excellence in Entrepreneurial Learning

CENTER FOR **STRATEGIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Undergraduate Research Development Module I-IV

July 17- August 6, 2023

Objectives

- Describe the research process.
- State the importance of a curiosity-driven mindset and the ability to ask insightful research questions.

- Explain the EXCEL Research Project.

What is research?

The academic research process is a systematic and rigorous approach undertaken by scholars and researchers to investigate a particular topic or question.

Stages of Research

- Identifying a research problem or question,
- Conduct a literature review
- design a research methodology, i.e., data collection methods and analysis techniques, gather and analyze relevant information.
- interpreting and evaluating the data to draw meaningful conclusions and contribute to the existing body of knowledge
- disseminate their findings through academic publications, conferences, and other forms of scholarly communication.

Curiosity Mindset

- The driving force behind the exploration and discovery of new knowledge.
- Researchers are more likely to identify unique research problems, explore innovative approaches, and uncover novel insights.
- CM fosters a sense of intellectual curiosity and openness to different perspectives, enabling researchers to think critically, seek diverse sources of information, and consider alternative explanations.

Curiosity Mindset

- CM encourages lifelong learning and intellectual growth, as researchers continuously seek to expand their knowledge and remain adaptable in the face of new challenges.
- CM is essential for pushing the boundaries of knowledge and driving meaningful progress in academic research.

What is EXCEL?

- The 2017 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation entitled "Reshaping Workforce Development in Baltimore: Ensuring Community Voice and Expertise Guide Us"
- teens and young adults in Baltimore, Maryland between the ages of 16 and 29 "crave entrepreneurship and resources to build businesses that are free from discrimination and benefit their communities."
- need to engage Baltimore entrepreneurship training organizations to explore, describe, assess, and make recommendations regarding the structure and delivery of programs available to Baltimore City residents between the ages of 16 and 29.

What is EXCEL?

- The Coppin EXCEL Project will add value to entrepreneurship preparedness and outcomes to improve community and resident engagement, program data collection and analysis, evidence-based outcomes, research and evaluation protocols, educational access, and socioeconomic mobility for youth and families.

- The research project will be of interest to policymakers, community leaders, public administrators, youth advocates, educators, higher education leaders, workforce development professionals, corporate and industry partners, funders, urban planners, and others.

- The project will also support equitable and inclusive practices in entrepreneurship training programs for youth.

Undergraduate Research Development Module II

July 24, 2023

Objectives

- Examine the fundamental principles of learning.
- Develop self-awareness of individual learning styles, strategies, and preferences.
- Discuss diverse learning needs and individual differences.

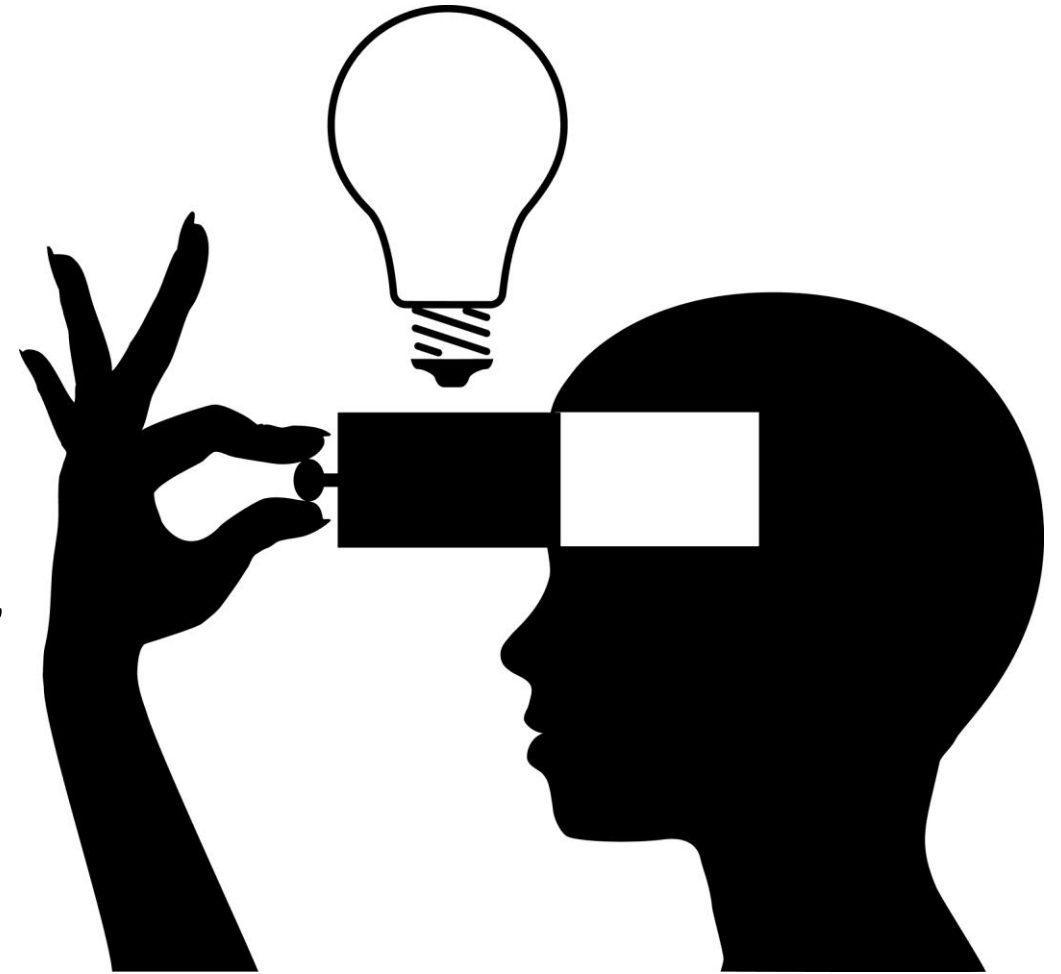- Explore the role of motivation and engagement in learning.

What is learning?

Researchers define learning as the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, or behaviors through experience, study, or teaching. It involves the processing of information, which leads to a change in an individual's mental representations or behavior
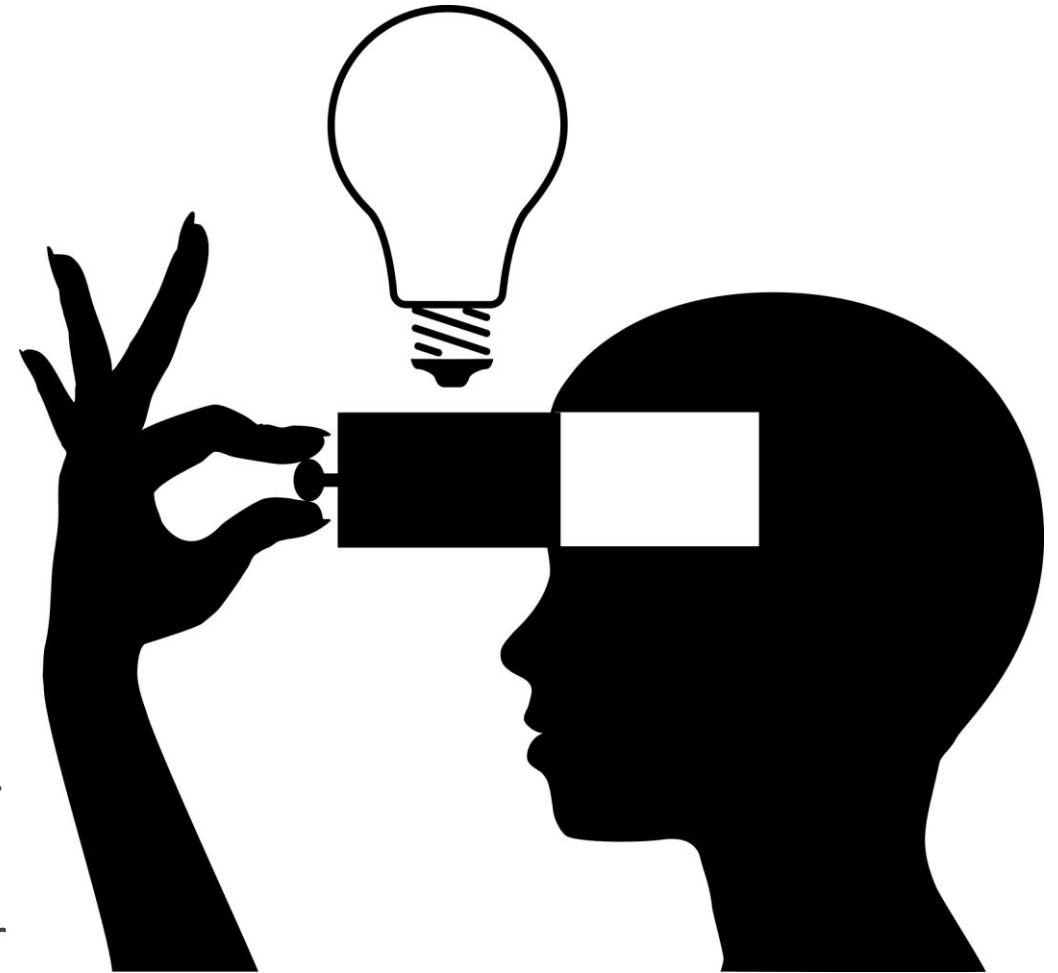
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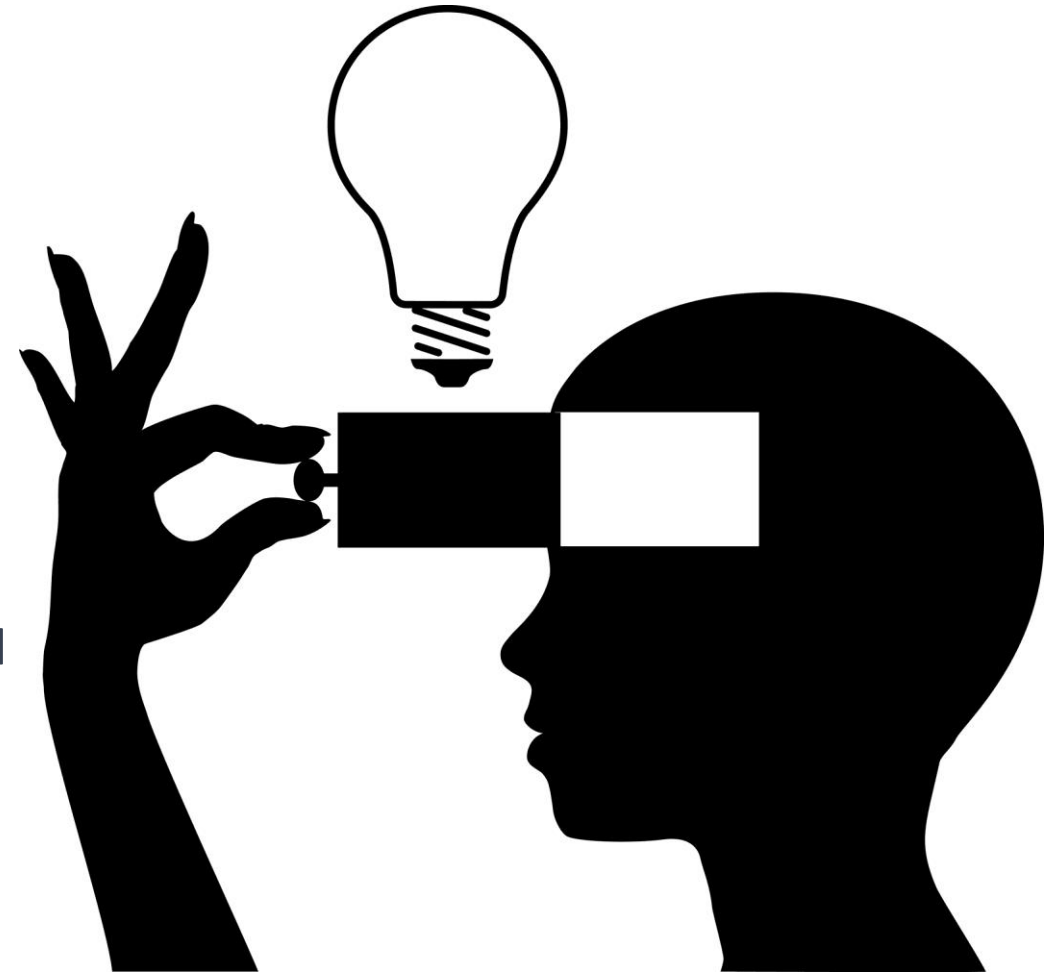
Elements of Learning

1. **Change**: Learning involves a change in the individual's cognitive or behavioral abilities. This change can be explicit, like gaining new knowledge, or implicit, like developing a skill.

2. **Experience:** Learning often results from experiences, whether they are direct experiences with the environment or through formal instruction and education.

3. **Adaptation:** Learning enables individuals to adapt to their surroundings and adjust their behaviors to be more effective or appropriate in different situations.

4. **Retention:** Effective learning typically involves the ability to retain and recall the acquired information or skills over time.

5. **Transfer:** Successful learning allows individuals to transfer what they have learned in one context to solve problems or perform tasks in new and relevant situations.
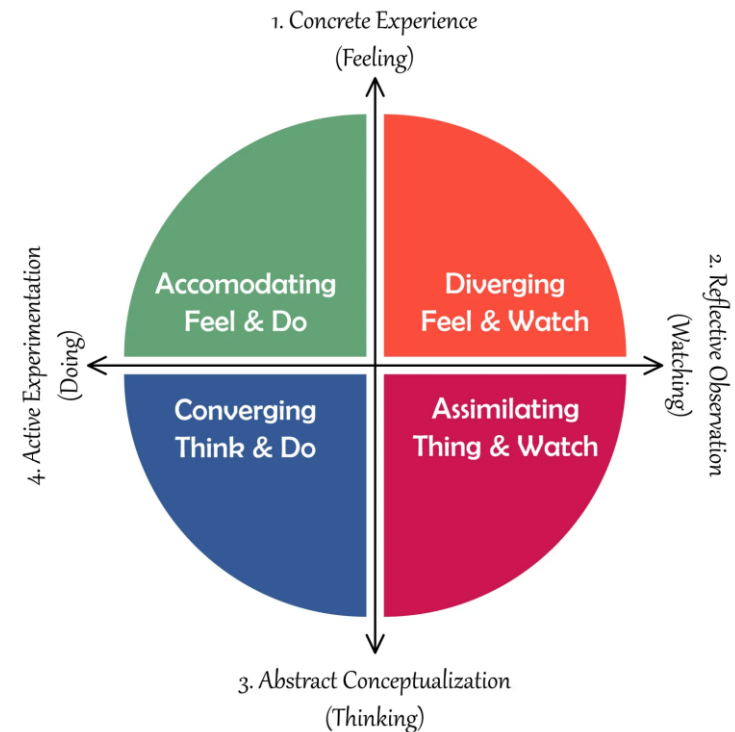
Elements of Learning

6. **Cognitive processes:** Learning involves various cognitive processes, such as attention, perception, memory, problem-solving, and reasoning.

7. **Feedback and reinforcement:** Feedback and reinforcement play crucial roles in the learning process by providing information about the correctness or effectiveness of the learner's actions.

8. **Motivation**: Motivation plays a significant role in learning, as individuals are more likely to engage in and persist with learning activities when they are motivated to do so.

9. **Individual differences**: Learning can be influenced by individual differences in cognitive abilities, learning styles, and prior knowledge.

Learning Style Inventory

- **Concrete Experience** – the learner encounters a concrete experience. This might be a new experience or situation, or a reinterpretation of existing experience in the light of new concepts.

- **Reflective Observation of the New Experience** – the learner reflects on the new experience in the light of their existing knowledge. Of particular importance are any inconsistencies between experience and understanding.

- **Abstract Conceptualization** – reflection gives rise to a new idea or a modification of an existing abstract concept (the person has learned from their experience).

- **Active Experimentation** – the newly created or modified concepts give rise to experimentation. The learner applies their idea(s) to the world around them to see what happens.

Learner Needs

Learner needs assessment is a systematic process used in education and training to identify and understand the specific learning requirements, preferences, and objectives of a group of learners or individual learners. The primary purpose of conducting a learner needs assessment is to gather relevant information that helps educators, trainers, and instructional designers tailor learning experiences and materials to meet the learners' unique needs effectively.

Learning Motivation

Researchers define motivation as the process that drives and sustains behavior, directing individuals toward certain goals, actions, or outcomes. It involves the internal and external factors that initiate, guide, and maintain an individual's behavior and determine the intensity and persistence of their actions toward achieving a particular goal.

Why EXCEL?

- Teens and young adults in Baltimore, Maryland between the ages of 16 and 29 "crave entrepreneurship and resources to build businesses that are free from discrimination and benefit their communities."
- There's a need to engage Baltimore entrepreneurship training organizations to explore, describe, assess, and make recommendations regarding the structure and delivery of programs available to Baltimore City residents between the ages of 16 and 29.

Q & A

Undergraduate Research Development Module III

July 31, 2023

Objectives

- Recognize the dominant social and economic conditions of you and young adults in Baltimore, MD
- Explain Trauma-Informed approaches to facilitating learning.
- State the significance of aligning approaches to teaching with the unique needs of learners.

Reality

- **Poverty has been on the rise among Baltimore's children**. The city's child poverty rate spiked from 24% in 2018 to 35% in 2021. Nationally, the child poverty rate was much lower — just 17% — in 2021.

- **In 2021, nearly 1 in 3 young adults living in Baltimore were poor.** In the last decade, young Baltimoreans, ages 18 to 24, experienced high poverty rates (with the statistic ranging from about 30% to 35% between 2011 and 2017). More recently, the poverty rate of the city's young adults dipped to 22% in 2019 and then jumped back up to 30% in 2021 — effectively erasing any progress made over the last decade.

Reality

Insufficient information about job openings and job support and a lack of reliable access to phone, internet and transportation were some of the most commonly cited barriers to employment.

Reality

Job prospects for young people
with prior criminal convictions
are minimal, and the
expungement process is difficult
to navigate.

Reality

While young people in Baltimore understand the long-term advantages of education for building a career, many are limited by the immediate need to make money.

Reality

Many teens and young adults —more than a third of those the consultants interviewed — crave entrepreneurship and resources to build businesses that benefit their communities, and that frees them from the discriminatory practices, policies, and workplace cultures that participants reported facing in traditional employment settings.

The Dream of Entrepreneurship

"Young people in Baltimore crave entrepreneurship and resources to build businesses that are free from discrimination and benefit their communities."

A Different Approach to Learning

6 GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

The CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR), in collaboration with SAMHSA's National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC), developed and led a new training for OPHPR employees about the role of trauma-informed care during public health emergencies. The training aimed to increase responder awareness of the impact that trauma can have in the communities where they work. Participants learned SAMHSA'S six principles that guide a trauma-informed approach, including:

1. SAFETY

2. TRUSTWORTHINESS & TRANSPARENCY

3. PEER SUPPORT

4. COLLABORATION & MUTUALITY

5. EMPOWERMENT VOICE & CHOICE

6. CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, & GENDER ISSUES

Adopting a trauma-informed approach is not accomplished through any single particular technique or checklist. It requires constant attention, caring awareness, sensitivity, and possibly a cultural change at an organizational level. On-going internal organizational assessment and quality improvement, as well as engagement with community stakeholders, will help to imbed this approach which can be augmented with organizational development and practice improvement. The training provided by OPHPR and NCTIC was the first step for CDC to view emergency preparedness and response through a trauma-informed lens.

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Undergraduate Research Development Module IV

August 7, 2023

Objectives

- Describe learning outcomes from the four-week EXCEL Undergraduate Research Training.
- Explain how learning outcomes will be used in the EXCEL Project.

- State how the learning outcomes apply to life-long learning.

What is research?

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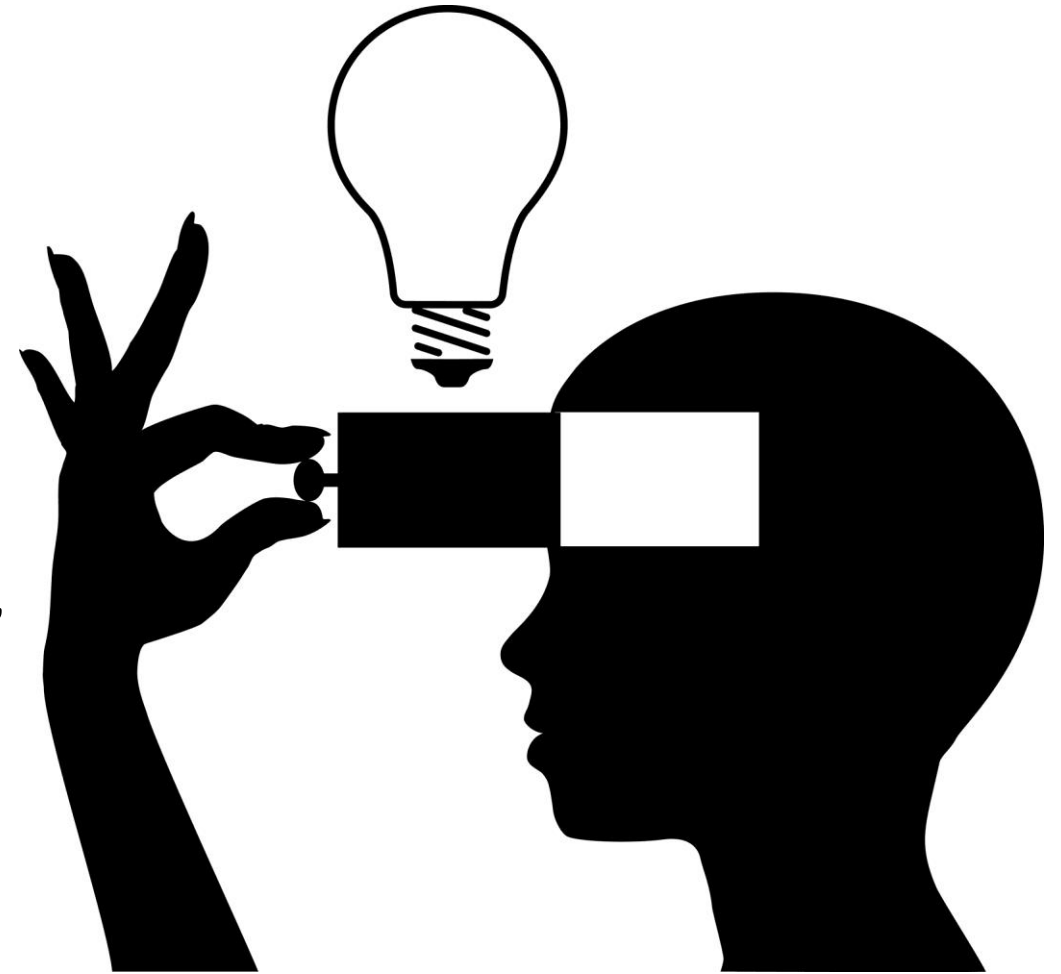
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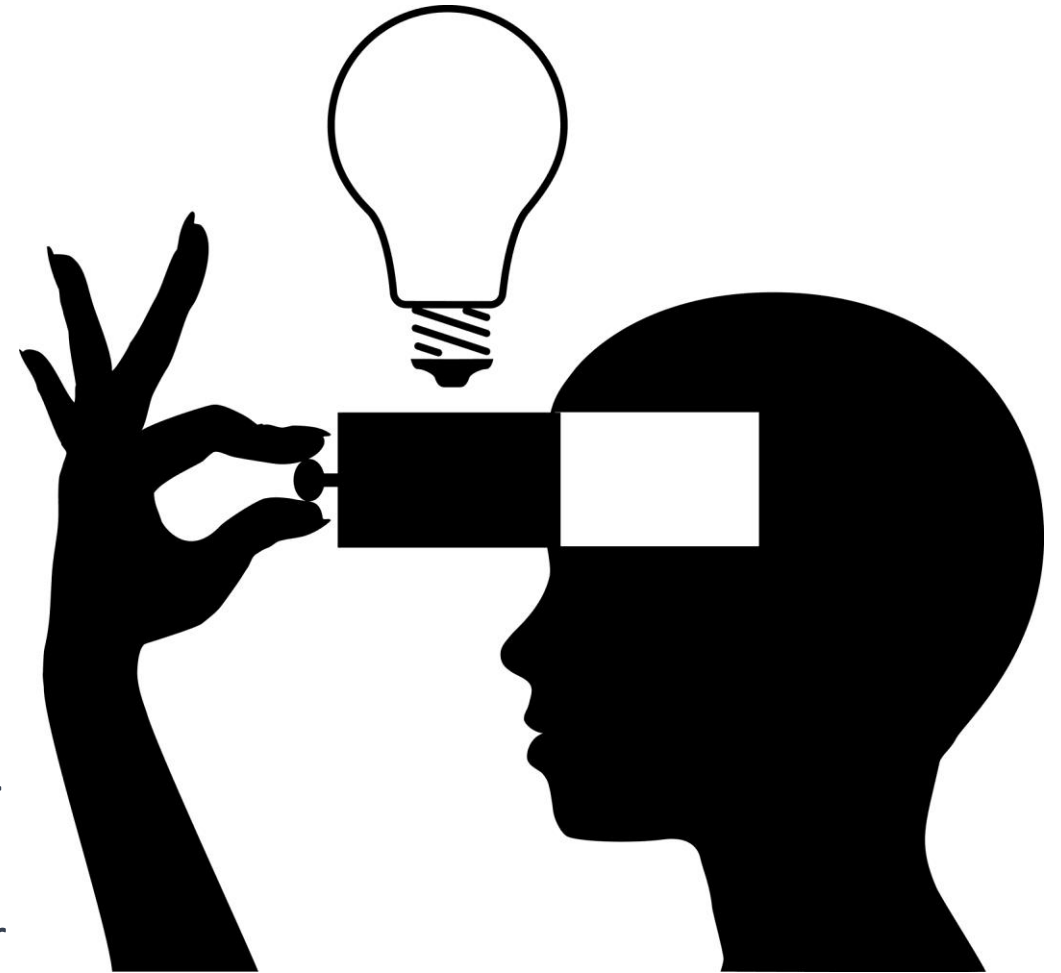
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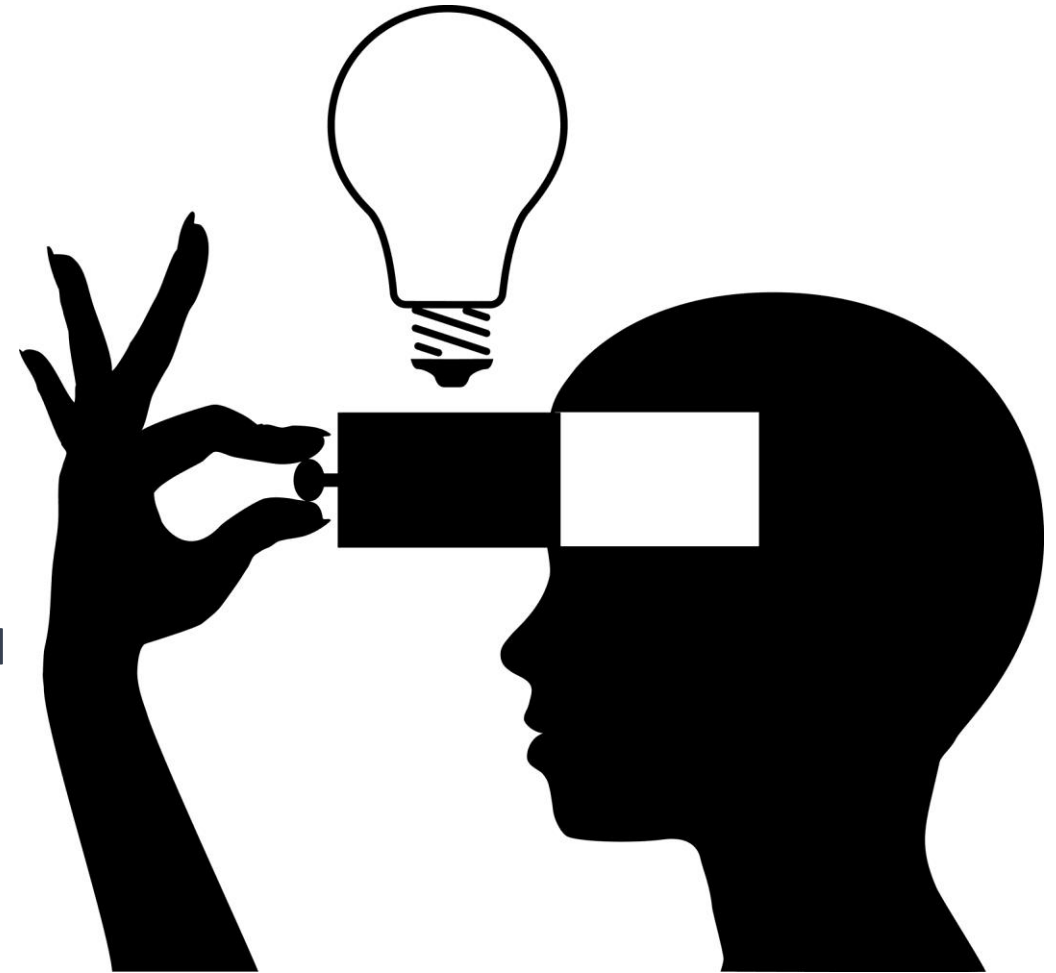
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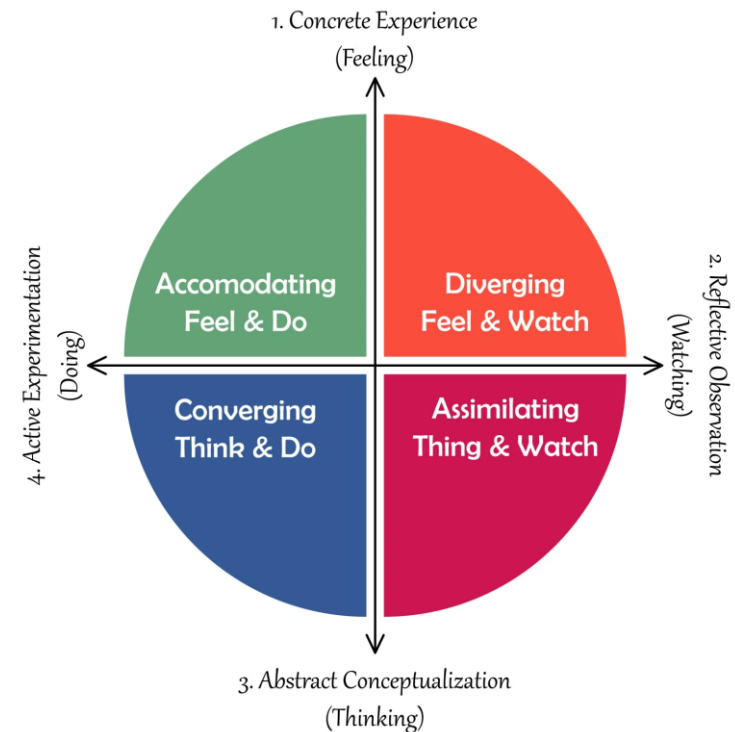
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Kolb's Learning Cycle

1. Concrete Experience (Feeling)

2. Reflective Observation (Watching)

3. Abstract Conceptualization (Thinking)

4. Active Experimentation (Doing)

- Accomodating — Feel & Do
- Diverging — Feel & Watch
- Converging — Think & Do
- Assimilating — Thing & Watch

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RESHAPING
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Annie E. Casey Foundation, 20217

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