

Building lifelong learning dispositions using the "Learning Journeys" approach and platform

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In the next hour...

- Learning Dispositions
- Learning Power as a construct
- The LP survey as a tool to provoke reflection
- The Learning Journeys platform
- Introducing this into your teaching

Kickoff exercise...

Think about the most effective learners you've taught / worked with

Not necessarily the highest grade scorers, but the ones who are effective real-world learners

Possibly those most likely attract an employer's eye

What qualities did they have?

Type a list privately for 1 minute...

Paste your list into the Zoom chat...



"Learning Dispositions"

It's strange...
that in most schools and universities
we have no language to talk about



learning to learn

We need tools that build our readiness to be...

stretched out of our comfort zones and equipped to handle Uncertainty

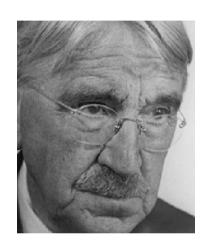
(aka "learning")

Knowledge, Skills & Dispositions

"Knowledge of methods alone will not suffice: there must be the desire, the will, to employ them.

This desire is an affair of personal

disposition."



John Dewey

What are learning dispositions?

"A disposition is a tendency to exhibit frequently, consciously, and voluntarily a pattern of behavior that is directed to a broad goal."

"one of the most important dispositions to be listed in educational goals is the disposition to go on learning. Any educational approach that undermines that disposition is miseducation."



Lilian Katz

Knowledge, Skills & Dispositions

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"It's more than knowledge and skills. For the innovation economy, dispositions come into play:
readiness to collaborate;
attention to multiple perspectives;
initiative;
persistence;
curiosity."

Larry Rosenstock
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High Tech High San Diego hightechhigh.org

Knowledge, Skills & Dispositions

"One of the key issues emerging from these findings was the learner's orientation towards the unknown, uncertainty and ambiguity, and their tendency to either retreat from it or move into it. The former effectively precludes deep learning, and the latter is the beginning point for it."

Ruth Deakin Crick & Chris Goldspink



Deakin Crick R. and Goldspink G. (2014) Learning Dispositions, Self-theories and Student Engagement, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 62,1,1-17. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2014.904038

Learning Dispositions

a lot of interest in how to cultivate these for lifelong/lifewide learning

When presented with learning opportunities, dispositions capture relatively enduring tendencies in the way that students behave

Even so, student responses can be contextual too

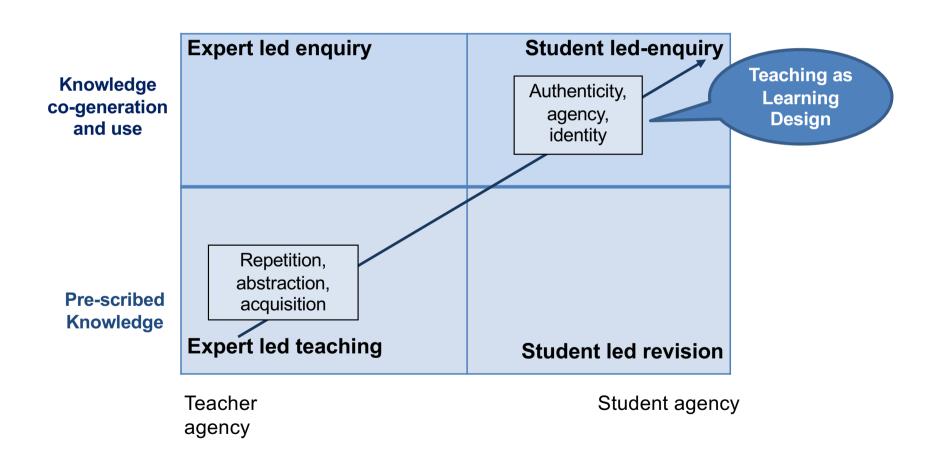
Learning dispositions seem to be tied to their sense of identity, agency and hope

Educators focus on malleable dispositions that are important for developing intentional learners

Dispositions which – critically – learners can recognise and develop in themselves

From transmission to learning design

The Knowledge-Agency Window



"Learning Power"

A language for learning dispositions

Crick Learning for Resilient Agency survey (CLARA)

Deakin Crick, R., Huang, S., Ahmed Shafi, A. and Goldspink, C. (2015). **Developing Resilient Agency in Learning: The Internal Structure of Learning Power.** *British Journal of Educational Studies*: 62, (2), 121-160. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2015.1006574



Answer Key

- 1. No, not at all like me
- 2. Not very much like me
- 3. A little like me
- 4. Quite like me
- 5. Quite a lot like me
- 6. Yes, very much like me





 There is at least one person close to me who has helped me to learn.

0000

2. I like talking through challenging problems with friends.

1 2 3 4 5 6

I need positive comments from a teacher in order to keep trying.

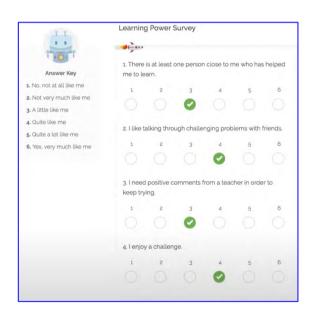
1 2 3 4 5 6

4. I enjoy a challenge.

2 3 4

Personalised feedback with a Learning Power profile

~20min, 65 item survey



Interactive spider diagram + resources



1. Provides a language for talking about learning to learn

(very similar to leadership qualities — because YOU should become the 'leader of your own learning')



2. Provides a mirror: a snapshot in a context on how you see yourself as a learner

Positive	Negative
Mindful Agency	Unaware, passive, mindless
Hope and Optimism	Stuck and static
Sense-making	Data accumulation
Creativity	Rule bound
Curiosity	Passive
Collaboration	Independent or Dependent
Belonging	Isolated, split off, lonely.
Openness to learning	Closed, brittle or fragile & dependent

Where did the Learning Power construct come from? (2001-04)

3 year project to identify the most important qualities shown by effective learners in schools, to devise a valid assessment tool

Experts & Practitioners consulted on overall process

Meta-analysis of the literature (empirical + theoretical)

Expert Workshops (policymakers + scholars)

Leading Practitioner input to survey questions

Survey design iterations and refinement

Factor analysis on survey data (N=2000)

Seven factors identified

Reanalysis of 40,000 profiles led to refinements (2015) in current version

How the survey questions map to Learning Power dimensions

Deakin Crick, R., Huang, S., Ahmed Shafi, A. and Goldspink, C. (2015). **Developing Resilient Agency in Learning: The Internal Structure of Learning Power.** *British Journal of Educational Studies*: 62, (2), 121-160. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2015.1006574

MINDFUL AGENCY

is taking responsibility for your own learning. It's about how you manage your feelings, your time, your energy, your actions and the things you need to achieve your goals. It's knowing your purpose - then knowing how to go about achieving it; stepping out on the path towards your goals.



TABLE 5: Mindful agency scale¹

111DDD 5. Intitugut agency seate	
I know that if something is important I can find a way to learn it	Agency
I know I can learn in my own way, even if my colleagues think it's a waste of time	
I know I can find a way of solving a problem if I have enough time to think	
I enjoy improving the way I go about things	
I have ways of making myself learn if I don't feel like learning	Managing
If I get distressed when I'm learning, I'm pretty good at finding ways of feeling better	feelings
I tend to be careful and logical in my approach to learning	Managing
I think about everything that I will need before I begin a task	processes
I can generally predict how long it will take me to learn something	*

HOPE AND OPTIMISM

is being confident that you can change and learn and get better over time. It is helped by having a positive learning story to reflect upon, that gives you a feeling of having 'come a long way' and of being able to 'go places' with your learning.



TABLE 8: Hope and optimism scale

I know I am changing and growing over time I am getting better at learning all the time I have a sense of myself getting better at learning

SENSE MAKING

is making connections between ideas, memories, facts - everything you know - linking them and seeing patterns and meaning. It's about how 'learning matters' to you, connecting with your own story and things that really matter.



TABLE 7: Sense-making scale

I make connections between what I am learning and what I have learned before	Making connections
I often look back and think about what I have learned	
Remembering what I already know often helps me to learn something new	
What I learn often leads to me doing things differently	
I prefer learning something when I have a good reason to do so	Making meaning
I enjoy learning something new when I understand its relevance in my life	
I enjoy learning about things I care a lot about	

CURIOSITY

is your desire to get beneath the surface, find things out and ask questions, especially 'Why?' If you are a curious learner, you won't simply accept what you are told without wanting to know for yourself whether and why it's true.



TABLE 9: Curiosity scale

I prefer learning something when I have to try really hard to understand it I am more stimulated by interesting questions than easy answers

I find learning more interesting if it is hard

I enjoy a challenge.

CREATIVITY

is using your imagination and intuition, being playful and 'dreaming' new ideas, having hunches, letting answers come to you, rather than just 'racking your brains' or looking things up. It's about going 'off the beaten track' and exploring ideas.



TABLE 6: Creativity scale

Imagination and Sometimes good ideas just come into my head I tend to use my imagination to help me learn Sometimes if I stop and wait good ideas just arrive in my head Often it is when I let my mind 'float free' that my best ideas come to me I like to try out new ways of doing things even if there is very little Risk-taking &

playfulness

intuition

I enjoy trying out new ways of learning

When my learning gets tedious I am good at finding ways to make it interesting

I feel it's alright to experiment with new ways of learning

COLLABORATION

is how you learn through your relationships with others. It is about knowing who to turn to for advice and how to offer it too. It's about solving problems by talking them through, generating new ideas through listening carefully, making suggestions and responding positively to feedback.



TABLE 10: Collaboration scale

I enjoy solving problems together with other people
I find it helps me to learn if I can talk about it with colleagues
I like talking through challenging problems with friends

BELONGING

reflects how much you feel you belong as part of a 'learning community' — at work or at home, or in your wider social network. It's about the confidence you gain from knowing there are people you learn well together with and to whom you can turn when you need guidance, support and encouragement.



TABLE 11: Belonging scale

There is at least one person close to me who has helped me to learn
I have at least one person close to me who I can turn to for guidance in my learning
I know at least one person in my community/social network who I can turn to for guidance in my learning

OPENESS TO LEARNING

is being open to new ideas and to challenge and having the 'inner strength' to move towards learning and change, rather than either giving up and withdrawing or 'toughing it out' and getting mad with the world. Becoming more open to learning is like a pathway to all the other dimensions of learning power, just as the other dimensions also help you become more open to learning.



TABLE 12: Openness to learning scale

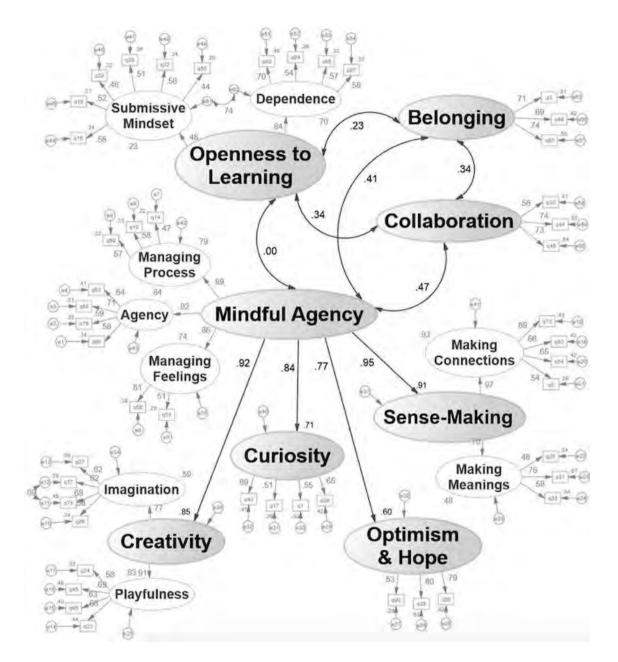
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The structure of Learning Power

"Learning Power" is a multi-dimensional construct for assessing learning dispositions

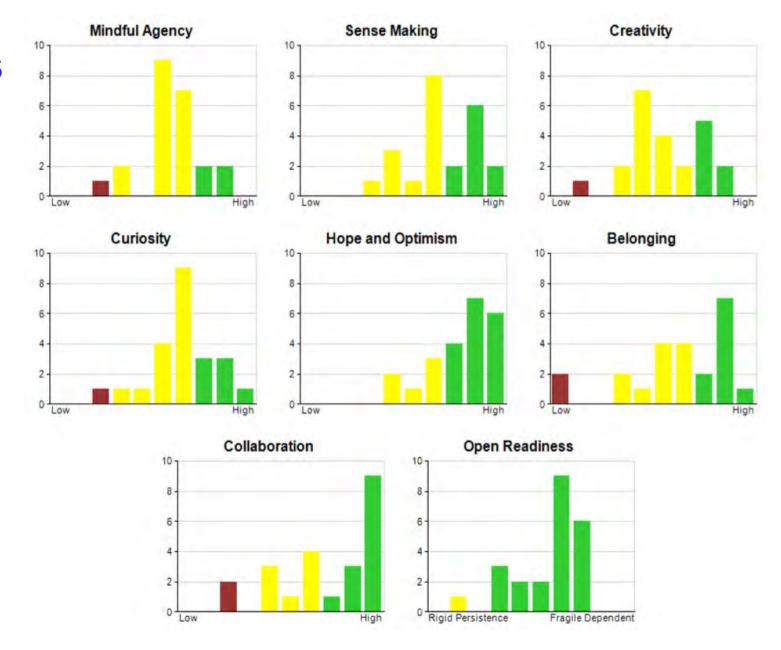
The structural equation model underpinning the Learning Power survey

Deakin Crick, R., Huang, S., Ahmed Shafi, A. and Goldspink, C. (2015). **Developing Resilient Agency in Learning: The Internal Structure of Learning Power.** *British Journal of Educational Studies*: 62, (2), 121-160. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2015.1006574



Cohort reports for educators

Cohort analytics for educators

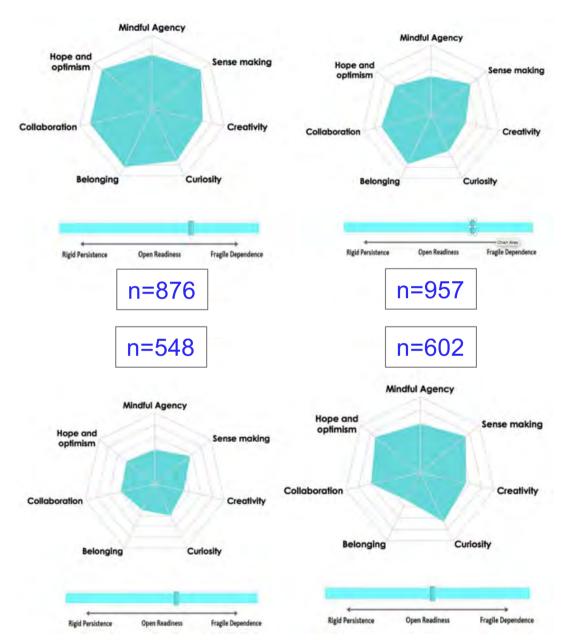


Cohort analysis

(2983 student profiles)

- For the 921 students with post-profile data, there were significant positive changes on all 8 dimensions.
- We can also derive through cluster analysis significantly different cohort profiles, inviting reflection and possibly intervention for those who might be judged at risk

Barratt-See, G., Cheng, M., Deakin Crick, R. & Buckingham Shum, S. (2017). Assessing Resilient Agency with CLARA: Empirical Findings from Piloting a Visual Analytics Tool at UTS. *Proceedings UniSTARS 2017: University Students, Transitions, Achievement, Retention & Success.* (Adelaide, 1-4 July, 2017). https://cic.uts.edu.au/tools/learning-power



Learning Power is one part of the Learning Journeys platform

Flex your "Learning Power" muscles

22 JANUARY 2021

After a year like 2020, it's helpful to reflect on how we handle challenges. That's what Learning Journeys is for! This tool is designed to build your "Learning Power" for studies, work placements, and life in general.

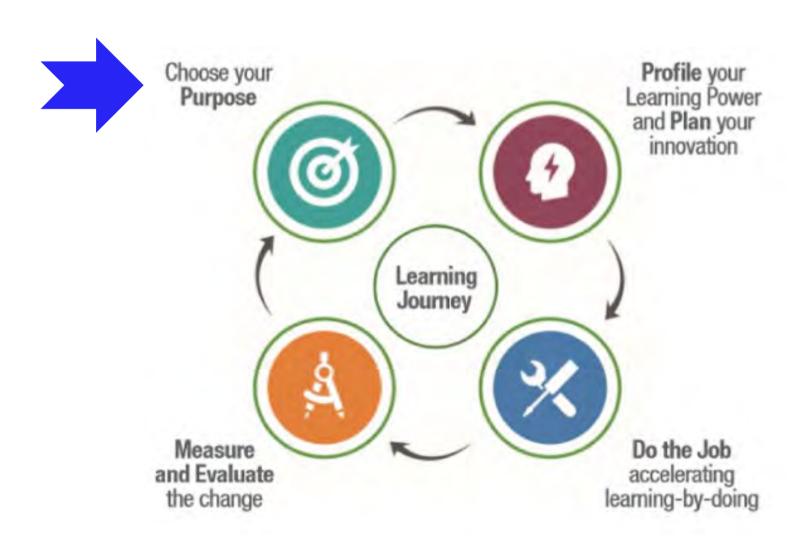


The Learning Journeys website was <u>announced to all</u> <u>students</u> in January

and is a resource on the student portal for online study

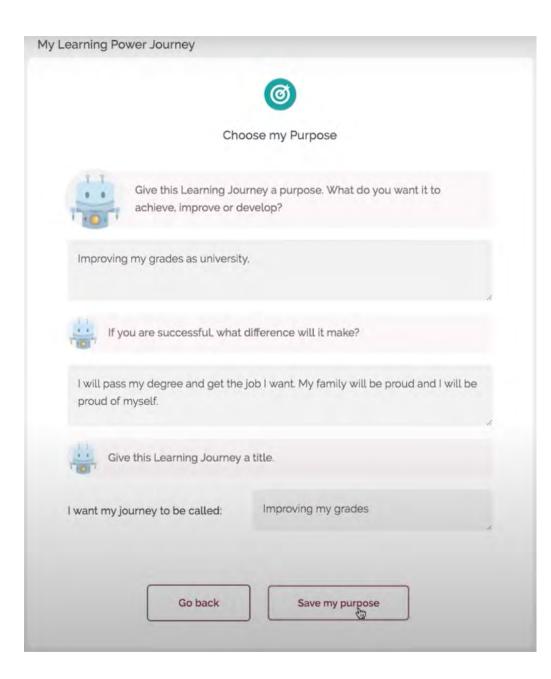
LearningJourneys.uts.edu.au

A learning journey has 4 steps, each step with brief videos



1. Choose my Purpose

is where you set the objective for your learning journey



2. Diagnose and Plan

is where you complete your Learning Power profile



Answer Key

- 1. No, not at all like me
- 2. Not very much like me
- 3. A little like me
- 4. Quite like me
- 5. Quite a lot like me
- 6. Yes, very much like me

Learning Power Survey



 There is at least one person close to me who has helped me to learn.

2. I like talking through challenging problems with friends.

1 2 3 4 5 6

I need positive comments from a teacher in order to keep trying.

1 2 3 4 5

4. I enjoy a challenge.

1 2 3

Example of a report card (e.g. for **Belonging**)

DETAILED RESULTS















Belonging

...is trusting that you will be understood and find support from people around you when you need it.

The opposite of this is feeling 'alone' or left out.

Your Own Result

You can see from your profile there's a fair bit of room for you to improve in this dimension.

Is that what you want to work on? If so, you might reflect on what your profile is telling you.

Are there times when you feel more separate and less supported in your learning than you would like to be?

How could you improve your sense of 'connectedness' in your learning community?

- Is there anyone you could ask to link up with, whom you could talk things through with, who'd support you in your reflections and decisions?
- · Could you find a coach or mentor of your own?
- Is there someone with a responsibility to support you, whom you could make better use of?
- There may be others who are needing the same. What could you do to build more
 of a 'learning community', of people with a shared commitment to learn, improve
 and do better?

You might be fine for a while, learning without this close connection and support, but your success is likely to be greater in the long run if you have a stronger sense of Belonging in your learning.

Could any of the other learning dimensions help you with this?

Your coach, if you have one, is the ideal person to support you.

Encouragement to reflect on your profile



...and PAUSE...

Take time to reflect on your Learning Power Profile.

What does your profile tell you about yourself?

What are the stories of your learning?

What changes do you want to make?

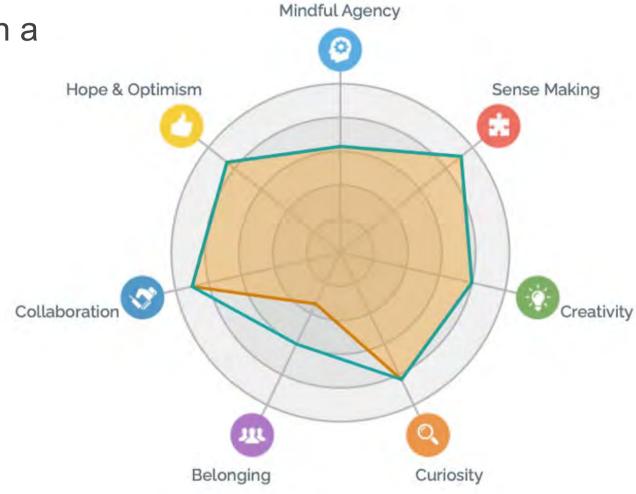
What will you do differently now?

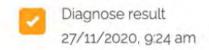
Now could be a good time to talk to your coach.

I will come back later

I am ready to continue

Setting a **stretch target** on a dimension

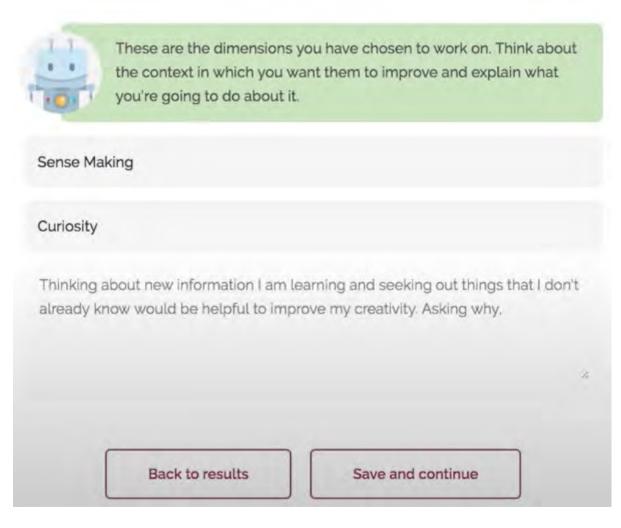






Thinking about **what it means** to stretch yourself on a dimension





Then you get stuck into task at hand:

3. Do the Job

...but all the time working on developing your learning power, and reflecting on how it's going And then repeat the survey at the end to see if there are any changes in the shape/size of your profile

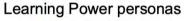
4. Measure and Evaluate



Introducing this into the student experience

UTS Engineering (Anne Gardner)



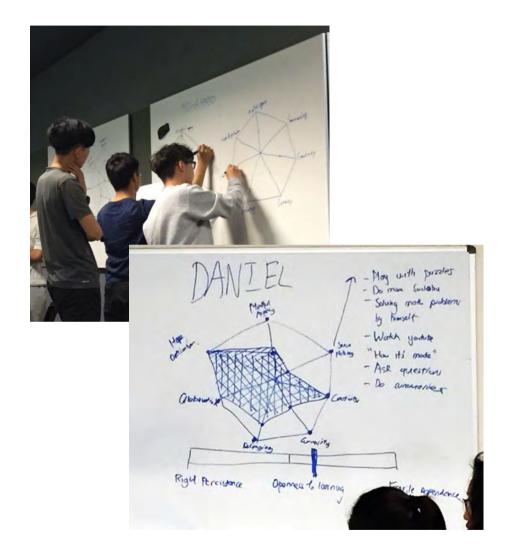








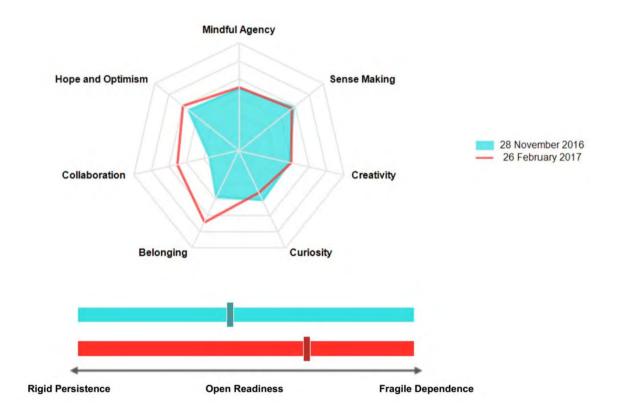
When she is table to come to class regularly, Meriodah is naily good at putting concepts together from loctures and readings, and she has life problem in making sense of the material. She desent accept things at face value and wants to understant things in more depth. However, with ric confrictable learning in groups because she desent the classes. She had some forward and bach't noily made any friends in her classes. She had some contact with Jumbana before unitatively. In side busy to with them now,



Workshop: http://aaee-scholar.pbworks.com/w/page/117254061/Adelaide%20workshop%2021st%20April

AAEE 2017 paper: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322244152 Characterising the learning dispositions of first year engineering students

UTS Pre-service Teacher (INSITE program)



"Throughout undertaking my initial teacher training my Learning Power profile has changed in a significant way.

My second profile taken 4 months later shows great improvement to **belonging** and **hope and optimism**. The most significant change has been part of the UTS INSITE group where we would routinely discuss our personal thoughts as we all progress as teachers.

I am now able to see how powerful a learning device that can be, created by working as a team and being able to freely share thoughts, ideas and even shortcomings to a supportive group.

The sense of belonging I believe has helped reshape me as a learner and is reflected in my shift towards open readiness."

Resources to support you and your students

LearningJourneys.uts.edu.au

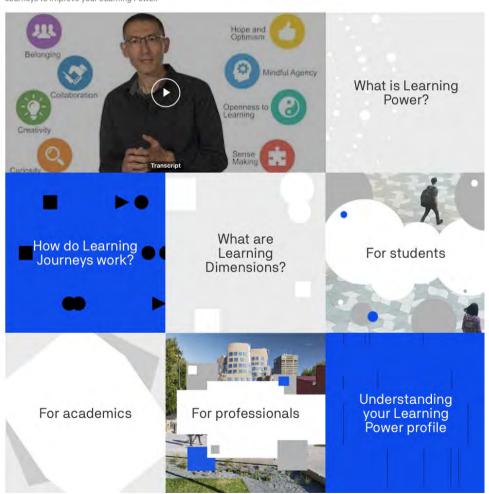
A resource that you can use with your students and colleagues

For formal teaching/study, or personal/professional development

Single sign-on to the *Jearni* platform to access the Learning Power survey and subsequent steps in the LJ

Learning Journeys

The world is complex and uncertain. To survive and thrive you need to develop your ability to adapt the way you learn (your Learning Power). You can use *Learning Journeys* to discover how you learn and, what you are good at. Once you understand this, you can use the tools and techniques provided by Learning Journeys to improve your *Learning Power*.



Understanding your Learning Power profile

2-page guides with strategies to build each learning power dimension



Understanding your Learning Power profile

Once you've completed your Learning Power profile (Step 2 of your Learning Journey, and Step 4 if you revisit it), you need to decide which aspects speak most to you, and what you want to stretch further (like a muscle).

Here are some options for you to consider, depending on whether you like reflecting on your own, or talking with others.

Online resources

Stories about fictional students

Stories from students and staff

Watch this video to see how one student made sense of his Learning Power profile, applied it in a project, then checked to see how his profile had changed. (Note that when this video was made, the diagram was called a CLARA profile)







https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/teaching-and-research-integration/learning-journeys/learning-journeys-uts/understanding-your-learning-power-profile

Understanding your Learning Power profile



Discuss with your peers

We've found that one of the most powerful ways to learn is in discussion with others. If you can connect with two colleagues who also want to do this, then you can form a Coaching Triad:

- · staff and students in UTS faculties have done this and found it helpful
- . you meet online or face-to-face, for an hour once a week for (say) 3 weeks to see how it
- you don't have to feel expert in any way just be ready to listen, observe, and ask openended questions to help someone think about their profile - it's all described in this handy Peer Coaching Guide! (PDF, 538K)



Learning Journey Peer Coaching Triads

If you have completed your Learning Power profile, then a regular peer coaching triad is a proven way to become a more powerful learner throughout your project cycle:

- · Be challenged by supportive peers in a safe environment
- Learn from others
- Be accountable for your own improvements
- Develop learning relationships

As a participant in a coaching triad, it is very important to create a safe environment - what is said in a triad, stays in the triad!



There are three rules in coaching conversations

- No advising No fixing
- No helping Resist the temptation!

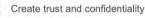
Running your coaching triad

- Arrange for three of you to meet face-toface or online allowing 45 mins to 1 hour
- Each member of a triad takes on three roles - decide who goes first in each role:

Coach Coachee Observer

- 1. Coaches ask open questions of the coachee to encourage self-reflection (See next page for examples)
- 2. Observers take notes and time each rotation. Allow 1-2 minutes for giving feedback: what did the coachee say?
- 3. Coachees reflect on your Learning Power profile and answer openly and honestly! (You can keep your profile to yourself if you prefer)

Take ten minutes in each role, then swap: everyone gets to learn about themselves and each other. Note the three rules!



Ask knowledge building questions

Agree on SMART goals

Focus on personal & project outcomes

No advising, fixing or helping

Allow space and time for new ideas



Next steps...

Share your session experiences after everyone has completed the three roles - what did you feel, observe and realise?

Get dates for your next session in the diary - Whether online or face-to-face, a 45 minute session once a week will make a huge difference.

Pick up where you left off next time. The focus of each journey will be different.

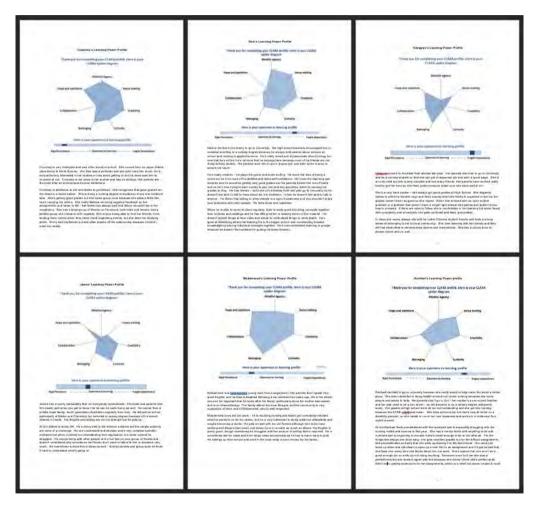
Remember when we learn together, we are all in the same boat.

Understanding your Learning Power profile

A mini website to help you go deeper into each learning power dimension



Stories about fictional students



https://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/teaching-and-research-integration/learning-journeys/learning-journeys-uts/understanding-your-learning-power-profile

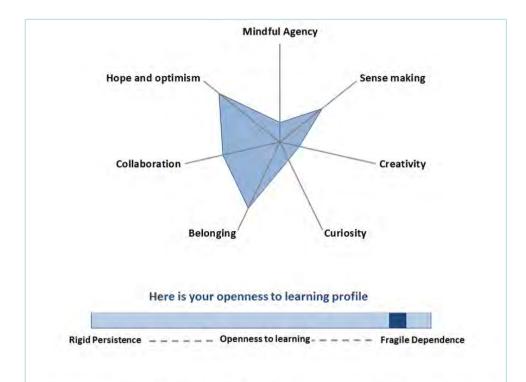
Fictional Learning Power Stories

You may find these Learning Power stories interesting to read.

They're not real people, but are based on many real students.

The stories demonstrate some of the reasons that can contribute to a profile having the shape it does.

If your story shares some similarities with one or more of these stories, then they might help you reflect on your own Learning Power.



Hongyan moved to Australia from abroad last year. Her parents want her to go to University and be a nursing student so that she can get a respected job and earn a good wage. She is an only child but she is very sociable and has many friends. Her parents have worked really hard to get her here so she feels under pressure make sure she does well at Uni.

She's a very hard worker – she always got good grades at High School. She diligently listens to what the teacher says and does exactly what she thinks is expected of her but her grades haven't been as good as she hoped. When she is faced with an open-ended question or a problem that doesn't have a single right answer she panics and doesn't know how to proceed. If there are rules to follow she is comfortable in her learning but when faced with complexity and uncertainty she gets confused and feels 'groundless'.

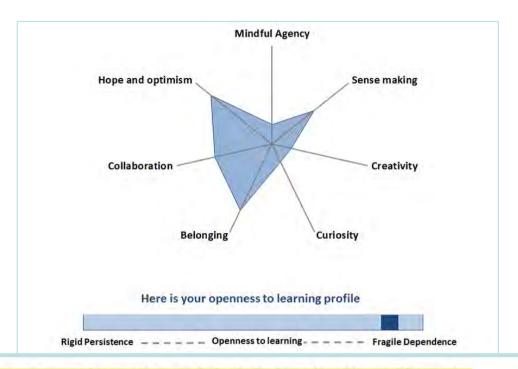
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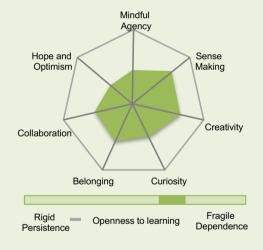
Cleo





Key Information

Name: Cleo Age Range: 35-44 Role: Manager



Description

- Cleo has recently returned to work after a planned career break.
- Rather than return to her old job, she has joined a new team, and her role and responsibilities have changed.
- At her performance review, she got excellent ratings from her manager, however, he noted that she needed to develop her confidence, particularly when working with others.
- Cleo has struggled to build relationships with the new team, many of whom have worked together for several years.
- As she is working in a new area, she also feels unsure of her expertise.
- Whilst she was grateful for her manager's reassurance, she wonders whether she made a mistake in returning to a managerial role, and whether she might be happier with fewer responsibilities.





Name: Giles Hope and Optimism Collaboration Rigid Persistence

Key Information

Age Range: 35-44

Role: Trainee Accountant

Belonging

Mindful Agency

Sense

Making

Curiosity

Openness to learning

Creativity

Fragile

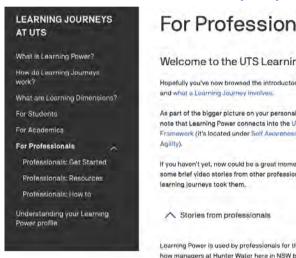
Dependence

Description

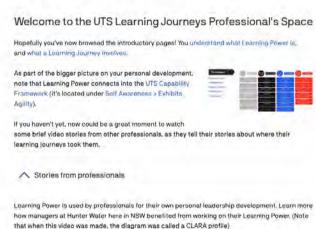
- Giles has had a varied career so far. He studied law at University, then went travelling. He managed to get a job as a trainee solicitor, but didn't enjoy it.
- He worked for a year as a Marketing assistant, but got fired as he refused to collaborate with others on projects.
- He tried working in Sales, but was fired as he didn't sell very much and had a series of disagreements with managers.
- He's currently working as a trainee accountant, but he struggles to follow the required processes and finds it difficult to understand what the numbers relate to. He's thinking of resigning.
- He's popular with some of his colleagues, but very unpopular with others, due to his poor time keeping. His manager sees him as unreliable.
- He's convinced that he'll find the right job for himself eventually, but he wonders why he feels he has to try everything when others make a plan and stick to it.

A professional, leadership development tool (i.e. "not just for the kids")

Relevant for students preparing for a work placement or internship



For Professionals



Managers at **Hunter** Water have shared how they benefited from working on their **Learning Power**







Discussion time...