

What Is Learning?

Learning is a complex process. One thing that greatly impacts your learning is the way that you actually think about learning. Today we are going to explore what is called **conceptions of learning**. Conceptions of learning are your ideas and beliefs that you have about being a learner.

Conceptions of learning fall into six categories:

- 1 Learning as gaining information
- 2 Learning as remembering, using, and understanding information
- 3 Learning as a duty
- 4 Learning as personal change
- 5 Learning as a process not bound by time or place
- 6 Learning as the development of social competence

*Think
About It*



A FUN FACT about Conceptions of Learning

Studies show that your conceptions of learning have a direct correlation, or connection, to your academic achievement. So what you think about learning affects your individual success as a learner! It also affects your motivation as a learner and the strategies you select when you are in the learning process.

Let's dig a little deeper into each of the categories by taking the following survey. You'll take this survey multiple times throughout the school year to see if your conceptions of learning change.



Conceptions of Learning Survey—Time 1

Date: _____

Directions: Read each statement carefully and think about how you feel about yourself as a learner. Check the box that best represents your response to each statement. There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of this survey is to establish a baseline about what *you* think and feel about learning.

	<i>I think...</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Learning is when I'm taught something that I didn't know before.				
2	Learning is taking in as many facts as possible.				
3	When someone gives me new information, I feel like I am learning.				
4	Learning helps me become clever (quick to understand, learn, apply ideas).				
5	Learning means I can talk about something in different ways.				
6	When something stays in my head, I know I have really learned it.				
7	If I have learned something, it means that I can remember that information whenever I want to.				
8	I should be able to remember what I have learned at a later date.				
9	I have really learned something when I can remember it at a later date.				
10	When I have learned something, I know how to use it in other situations.				
11	If I know something well, I can use the information if the need arises.				
12	Learning is making sense out of new information and ways of doing things.				
13	I know I have learned something when I can explain it to someone else.				
14	Learning is finding out what things really mean.				
15	Learning is difficult but important.				
16	Even when something I am learning is difficult, I must concentrate and keep on trying.				
17	Learning and studying must be done whether I like it or not.				
18	Learning has helped me widen my views about life.				
19	Learning changes my way of thinking.				
20	By learning, I look at life in new ways.				

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<i>I think...</i>		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
21	Learning means I have found new ways to look at things.				
22	Increased knowledge helps me become a better person.				
23	I use learning to develop myself as a person.				
24	When I learn, I think I can change as a person.				
25	Learning is necessary to help me improve as a person.				
26	I don't think I will ever stop learning.				
27	I learn a lot from talking to other people.				
28	Learning is gaining knowledge through daily experiences.				
29	Learning is knowing how to get along with different kinds of people.				
30	Learning is not only studying at school but also knowing how to be considerate to others.				
31	Learning is the development of common sense in order to become a better member of society.				
32	Learning is developing good relationships.				

Count how many check marks you had for each answer choice, and capture the numbers in the table below.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32

As we continue throughout the school year and work to become assessment-capable visible learners, we will return to this survey tool and see if any of your conceptions of learning have changed.



Conceptions of Learning Survey—Time 2

Date: _____

Directions: Read each statement carefully and think about how you feel about yourself as a learner. Check the box that best represents your response to each statement. There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of this survey is to establish a baseline about what *you* think and feel about learning.

<i>I think...</i>		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	Learning is when I'm taught something that I didn't know before.				
2	Learning is taking in as many facts as possible.				
3	When someone gives me new information, I feel like I am learning.				
4	Learning helps me become clever (quick to understand, learn, apply ideas).				
5	Learning means I can talk about something in different ways.				
6	When something stays in my head, I know I have really learned it.				
7	If I have learned something, it means that I can remember that information whenever I want to.				
8	I should be able to remember what I have learned at a later date.				
9	I have really learned something when I can remember it at a later date.				
10	When I have learned something, I know how to use it in other situations.				
11	If I know something well, I can use the information if the need arises.				
12	Learning is making sense out of new information and ways of doing things.				
13	I know I have learned something when I can explain it to someone else.				
14	Learning is finding out what things really mean.				
15	Learning is difficult but important.				
16	Even when something I am learning is difficult, I must concentrate and keep on trying.				
17	Learning and studying must be done whether I like it or not.				
18	Learning has helped me widen my views about life.				
19	Learning changes my way of thinking.				
20	By learning, I look at life in new ways.				

<i>I think...</i>		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
21	Learning means I have found new ways to look at things.				
22	Increased knowledge helps me become a better person.				
23	I use learning to develop myself as a person.				
24	When I learn, I think I can change as a person.				
25	Learning is necessary to help me improve as a person.				
26	I don't think I will ever stop learning.				
27	I learn a lot from talking to other people.				
28	Learning is gaining knowledge through daily experiences.				
29	Learning is knowing how to get along with different kinds of people.				
30	Learning is not only studying at school but also knowing how to be considerate to others.				
31	Learning is the development of common sense in order to become a better member of society.				
32	Learning is developing good relationships.				

Count how many check marks you had for each answer choice, and capture the numbers in the table below.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32

Now that you've taken the Conceptions of Learning Survey for the second time this school year, let's look at how these results compare to your results the first time you took the survey.

Conceptions of Learning Survey	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Time 1 Results	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32
Conceptions of Learning Survey	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Time 2 Results	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32
Time 1 and Time 2 Changes				

Reflect

Were there any changes in the way you responded to the statements in the Conceptions of Learning Survey from the first time you took it to the second time? If so, what were they?

What do you think was the cause of those changes?



Conceptions of Learning Survey—Time 3

Date: _____

Directions: Read each statement carefully and think about how you feel about yourself as a learner. Check the box that best represents your response to each statement. There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of this survey is to establish a baseline about what *you* think and feel about learning.

<i>I think...</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1				
2				
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<i>I think...</i>		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
21	Learning means I have found new ways to look at things.				
22	Increased knowledge helps me become a better person.				
23	I use learning to develop myself as a person.				
24	When I learn, I think I can change as a person.				
25	Learning is necessary to help me improve as a person.				
26	I don't think I will ever stop learning.				
27	I learn a lot from talking to other people.				
28	Learning is gaining knowledge through daily experiences.				
29	Learning is knowing how to get along with different kinds of people.				
30	Learning is not only studying at school but also knowing how to be considerate to others.				
31	Learning is the development of common sense in order to become a better member of society.				
32	Learning is developing good relationships.				

Count how many check marks you had for each answer choice, and capture the numbers in the table below.

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32

Now that you've taken the Conceptions of Learning Survey for the third time this school year, let's look at how these results compare to your results the second time you took the survey.

Conceptions of Learning Survey Time 2 Results	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32
Conceptions of Learning Survey Time 3 Results	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32	/ 32
Time 2 and Time 3 Changes				

Reflect

Were there any changes in the way you responded to the statements in the Conceptions of Learning Survey from the second time you took it to the third time? If so, what were they?

What do you think was the cause of those changes?