

Cognitivism seems to be the learning theory that I identify with the most. In my teaching practices I use Gagne's 9 Events of Instruction, although I've never called them that. It is habit, as a teacher, to go through these steps when you are teaching a lesson. The confusing part come in when I randomly offer tokens for going above and beyond. For example, offering an idea that is outside the box and thoughtful, or being extra patient while waiting to be called on. So, there, I bring in a bit of Behaviorism. Anyway, overall I believe that I use more of a Cognitivist approach while teaching.

A Cognitivist would say that learning happens when a mental structure is changed due to an experience. Now, we can't see the change, as it is a mental change, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen. This is actually what I like about Cognitivism. It makes me think of how I struggle to argue my point when I have something figured out in my head. Just because I can't explain it doesn't mean I'm not thinking it. In addition, a Cognitivist would argue that the learner has much to do with their own learning. They are constantly processing information according to the Dual Memory System. They are making sense of what they learn and organizing it into a way that will be easy to recall at a later date.

I will admit that I had a really hard time getting started on this part of my Knowledge Base. Behaviorism seemed so easy compared to this. The biggest concern I had, and I guess I still do, is that I would forget to include something really important. There are many ways to describe this learning theory and I had a hard time choosing the best way that made sense to me. Now that I'm done, I think I did a good job, and it all makes sense to me...but will it make sense to someone else? Aha! Maybe that is the point. Just because an outsider doesn't "see" what I learned doesn't mean I didn't learn it! Full circle. Too bad I still need to write more for my reflection.

I think designing this portion of my KB became easier when I got into the instruction part. That is my area of expertise and using my experiences helped so much. It was easy to come up with examples and scenarios that fell under the Cognitive realm.

I had to go back and read my Behaviorism reflection to try to make sure I included the same sort of components in this reflection. However, I don't have as many questions or concerns about this theory. Once again, it is a reason that I feel as if Cognitivism is "my" theory.