

Chapter 2 | The Nature of Knowledge and the Implications for Teaching

Resource 1 | What are your beliefs?

Every teacher starts from some epistemological or theoretical position, even if it is not explicit or even if the teacher is not fully aware of their beliefs. These underlying beliefs and values often shape our approach to teaching. Chapter 2 introduces four of the most common theories of learning and the underlying epistemologies. Take a moment to explore some of your beliefs by rating your agreement with each of the following statements from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

Objectivism and Behaviorism		My Rating
A course represents a body of knowledge to be learned.		
The effective transmission of knowledge is of central importance in teaching.		
Learning involves finding the right answer and justifying it.		
Lectures should be authoritative, informative, organized and clear.		
Rewards and punishments drive learning.		
		Total: /25
Cognitivism		My Rating
Students have internal and conscious representations of the world.		
Learning starts with remembering information and progresses through to evaluating/creating information.		
Teachers should make use of Bloom's taxonomy when planning lessons or assessments.		
Decision making, problem solving and creative thinking are important aspects of learning.		
Learning involves mentally processing and making sense of new information.		
		Total: /25

Constructivism	My Rating
Learning is a dynamic and ongoing process.	
Learning is a social process that requires communication between the teacher, learner and others.	
Students learn by actively and purposefully creating meaning.	
Knowledge is actively constructed by learners rather than acquired.	
Learning involves students considering new information relative to past experiences and prior knowledge.	
	Total: /25
Connectivism	My Rating
Knowledge is distributed across a network of connections.	
Learning is the process of connecting specialized nodes or information sources in a network.	
The capacity to know more is more critical than what is currently known.	
Nurturing and maintaining connections is needed to facilitate continual learning.	
The ability to see connections between fields, ideas, and concepts is a core skill.	
	Total: /25

Tally up your score for each category. Which theories do you align more closely with and with which do you align less closely? TIP: After reading the chapter return and see if and how your beliefs have changed!