A COMPARISON OF STUDENT LEARNING ORIENTATION AND THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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The mode of instruction in a course can be described along a spectrum from pedagogical (teacher-directed) to andragogical (learner-directed). A student’s learning orientation (preference of instructional modality) can be described along the same scale. It would be expected that a student in a course with an instructional modality that matches his or her learning orientation should perform at a higher level and feel greater satisfaction than if there was a mismatch. This investigation found evidence indicating that students with an andragogical orientation to learning perform better and are more satisfied with a computer-based course compared to a course offered in a traditional classroom setting. Conversely, students with a pedagogical orientation were observed to be more likely to succeed in a classroom setting rather than in a computer-based course.