Incorporating Your Learning Style Into Writing
NC State Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services * NC State Graduate Writing Center
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Not sure what learning style you have? Take the test here:
http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles.shtml

Tips for All Writers:
1. Make sure to read the prompt before you start writing and reread it multiple times throughout your writing process to make sure you address all points.
2. Take a break from your work when revising. Strive for at least 24 hours, but even a few minutes can bring fresh eyes and new clarity.
3. Incorporate tips from all learning styles, even ones that aren’t your own. New techniques can give you new ideas.

Visual Learners: Writing Tips and Strategies
1. Use different colors (pens, highlighters, notecards etc.) to organize your thoughts and research.
   ○ List key words and ideas in different colors to keep track of them.
   ○ Color code your notes on readings and for class.
   ○ Highlight or bold your thesis and topic sentences to make sure you address the point.
2. Use visual references.
   ○ Make a “mental map” or visual plan of your ideas - try to include visual sources.
   ○ Create graphs, charts, etc. to organize your ideas.
3. Use a computer and word processor for drafting your work.
   ○ A computer can help you keep your thoughts and ideas organized and has spellcheck!
   ○ Keep a browser open with a citation guide handy for ease with citations - try Purdue Owl.
   ○ Change the font, size, layout, etc. of your paper to gain a new visual perspective.
4. Print your paper for revision.
   ○ Use different color pens and actually highlight or write on your paper.
   ○ Try cutting up paper into individual paragraphs and rearrange them for coherency.

Auditory Learners: Writing Tips and Strategies
1. Talk out loud.
   ● Talk to yourself or someone else about the assignment, your ideas, etc. to get ideas flowing.
   ● Record yourself and others (with explicit permission) to remember your thoughts during brainstorming and drafting.
   ● Read topic sentences aloud to make sure you are on track in your writing.
   ● Read quotes in a different voice to make sure they are introduced properly within the sentence.
   ● Have someone else read your drafts out loud so you can hear your own words and catch mistakes.
2. Ask yourself questions and talk about the answers.
   ● Important questions include: why is this important? and what is the main point?
   ● Record the answers to think about later.
3. Create a plan.
   ● Formulate an outline and then read it out loud.
   ● Summarize key concepts or sources into a few sentences and read them aloud.
   ● Look for the Handout on Brainstorming, Outlining, and Organizing Your Paper and make sure everything is addressed.
4. Listen for grammar!
   ● Listen for transitions, paragraph flow, and clarity when reading through.
   ● Read the entire sentence BEFORE you make a change - a little change can alter the meaning of an entire sentence.
   ● Read the punctuation aloud too - this will help make sure it is being used appropriately.

**Kinesthetic Learners: Writing Tips and Strategies**

1. Organize your thoughts creatively.
   ● Use pens of various sizes and colors and post-it notes and index cards for recording research. Then move these cards around physically in the order you want it.
   ● Create something 3D (like a mobile or hanging notes on strings) to represent your ideas.
   ● Cut up a draft of your paper and rearrange the paragraphs in the most logical and cohesive order.
   ● Create a checklist based on the rubric and paper criteria and check things off as they are added.
2. Use physical research and sources.
   ● Go to the library and check out books for research (the physical nature of sources help).
   ● Use a computer to draft - the active typing keeps your fingers busy!
3. Reposition and move your body.
   ● Move around physically as you work and brainstorm - try walking around or using the treadmill desks found in Carmichael gym.
   ● Reposition your body by finding a new position or location to work to get new perspectives.
   ● Take breaks for physical activity at major stopping points.
4. Use a computer
   ● With a Word processor it is faster and easier to make corrections.
   ● Use the computer to look at two drafts of your paper next to each other - look for differences in organization and then decide on what works best.

Works Consulted:
The University of Arizona’s Strategic Alternative Learning Techniques Center (http://www.salt.arizona.edu/); The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth's Center for Access and Success (http://www.umassd.edu/); *The Bedford Guide for Writing Tutors*, 6th ed. (Ryan and Zimmerelli)