**Assignment 2. Learning Theory Matrix**

**Foundations of Teaching and Learning – EDUC 616**

**Fall 2021**

**\*This assignment version is for Professor Baker’s section\***

**Assignment due October 4, 2021, 1159pm USA Eastern time**

**Instructions:** In this assignment, your group will *synthesize and compare* major theorists that have influenced American education. You should NOT use any outside sources, and any quotations should be minimal. Instead, you will be paraphrasing and analyzing assigned reading. Use the template below to emphasize what is similar and different across each theory for each of the 9 themes/dimensions.

**1. Learning:** What is it? What are its influences and mechanisms? Where/how can it be observed?

**2. Role of environment:** What role does the environment play in shaping learning?

**3.** **Knowledge:** What is it? How does it come to be?

**4. Motivation/Interest:** What does this theorist assume about learners’ motivations?

**5. Roles of Teacher & Learner:** How do these actors participate in the learning process?

**6. Aims of Education:** What might this theory suggest about the purposes of education? By extensions, what does this mean about the ideal mechanisms of education?

**7. Major Contribution:** What are the theory’s major contributions to understanding of learning and/or teaching? (How do the constructs/activities emphasized by this theory compare to those emphasized by the other two?)

**8. Limitations:** What are the limitations of this theory? (There are many ways to answer this question, but if you are struggling to get started, you might think about how well the theory dealt with any of the other dimensions.)

**Note on getting started:** Because these theorists take such different approaches, they may not spend as much time explicitly discussing terms that are used in each of these dimensions. In some cases, you can infer what they might say about a construct based on how they describe components of that term. For example, theorists may not have explicitly mentioned the word “motivation”, but you can probably extrapolate what they *would* have said about those subjects based on their other writing.

In some cases, it might be easiest to start with explicit comparisons:

“Where as X describes learning as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Y describes learning as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Then compare the nuances in those definitions.

**Academic Integrity:** Please follow all guidelines for avoiding plagiarism. In addition, every person in your group is responsible for every cell in this matrix. You should *not* divide up the columns or rows and complete parts of this assignment individually, and doing so will make this assignment harder to complete successfully.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Themes** | **Behaviorism (Skinner, Thorndike)** | **Constructivism (Piaget)** | **Socioculturalism (Vygotsky)** |
| **Learning:** |  |  |  |
| **Role of environment:** |  |  |  |
| **Knowledge:** |  |  |  |
| **Motivation/ Interest:** |  |  |  |
| **Roles of Teacher & Learner:** |  |  |  |
| **Aims of Education:** |  |  |  |
| **Major Contribution:** |  |  |  |
| **Limitations:** |  |  |  |