
REC's Four Pillars of Learning

The building blocks of education and learning

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WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO LEARN?



Proper Training, Tools, Time, and Effort

There are numerous theories about learning, education, and achievement, but there are four components to learning and education, regardless of what the topic or subject is. To learn anything new, a person must receive the proper training, possess the required tools, and provide the time and effort necessary to master the information.

Training

Training is best described as the detailed and comprehensive instruction of the fundamental components, requirements, and basic information needed to complete or perform a desired task, action, or skill. Training is typically provided by an outside source (educator, manual, coach, etc.) that has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the desired action or task. For example, a chef teaches aspiring chefs how to cook, a Spanish speaker teaches others how to speak Spanish, a coach teaches an athlete the fundamentals of the game, and a scientist teaches other scientists the proper methodology and process to yield credible, accurate, and respectable results.

Tools

Tools are best described as the equipment required to complete and perform a desired task, action, or skill. In addition to knowing what tools are necessary, it is important to know and understand how to use each tool to complete the task. Therefore, proper training presents an additional layer as it must include education regarding the usage of the needed tools. For example, if you want to play tennis, you need a tennis racquet, tennis balls, a tennis court, and the proper athletic shoes and apparel. If you want to make scrambled eggs, you need eggs, a pan, a stove, and a whisk. To use the Internet, you need a computer, an ability to read, an Internet connection, and an Internet service provider.

Time

Time is the time necessary to practice, study, and learn how to complete a desired task, action, or skill. The amount of time a person commits and utilizes to master the training varies from individual to individual. For example: you may be able to naturally absorb some topics and, thus, spend less time on them. While other more complex topics may require that you sacrifice "fun time" in order to learn them.

Regardless, it is up to the individual to make the commitment necessary to accomplish mastery of the topic.

Effort

Effort is best described as the energy, practice, and work displayed in an attempt to learn and master the desired task, action, or skill. Effort is also controlled by the individual. Effort separates those who do poorly from those who perform well. For example, it may take you one or two attempts to learn or remember one particular lesson or topic and four to six to learn a different skill. The energy and effort you are willing to commit to a topic strongly impacts your ability to learn, complete, and master a task or skill.

Conclusion

The learning process is the comprehensive collection of training, tools, time, and effort. **The quality and caliber of the training and tools an individual receives materially impacts that individual's ability to perform, achieve, and progress. Typically, those components are "outside forces" and beyond the individual's control.** He/she is the receiver of the information. **The only items an individual has direct control over are his/her time and effort. These traits combine to create one's drive, focus, and determination.** Collectively, these "internal forces" separate good from great in learning, education, and overall success in life.

REC's Four Pillars of Learning Pyramid

