Module 6: Using Different Learning Modalities

As a method of learning, you will need to incorporate as many senses/modalities as possible when working with students. Everyone processes and retains information differently; therefore, you cannot expect tutees to understand and retain information the way you do. Listen for cues from your tutees such as:

- “All my professor does is lecture!”
- “I prefer classes where I can take notes and review them with my textbook”
- “I really struggle with the class content but I love the lab!”
- “It makes more sense when I can see the example in this chart.”

Remember, most students can learn from multiple-modalities, which is why good tutors incorporate as many as possible; however, if a student is really struggling in a subject, it’s best to incorporate their strongest modality.

When you’re tutoring, remember to incorporate the following:

- **Visual** – Draw pictures, charts, graphs or hierarchies
- **Auditory** – Have the tutee summarize or explain a process or concept
- **Kinesthetic** – Keep the student physically engaged – have the student write on the board or come up with real-life or practical examples
- **Read/Write** – Have the tutee read directly from the text or rewrite steps or a process

**Making it real** – Using real life examples helps tie new information to information already stored in long-term memory which in turn, creates more opportunity for retrieval and retention.

**References:**