

# An Analysis of the Educational Impact of Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences

By Richard X. Thripp

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EDF 1005 Prof. John Connor

Daytona State College

# Howard Gardner



# Howard Gardner

- Howard Gardner:
- Is a Harvard psychologist
- A well-known proponent and researcher in multiple intelligences
- Says overall intelligence is divided into eight independent categories

# Overview

- The 8 categories are:
- **Linguistic** intelligence
- **Logical-mathematical** intelligence
- **Musical** intelligence
- **Spatial** intelligence
- **Bodily-kinesthetic** intelligence
- **Interpersonal** intelligence
- **Intrapersonal** intelligence
- **Naturalist** intelligence

# Overview

- The 8 categories are: (examples)
- **Linguistic** intelligence (poets)
- **Logical-mathematical** intelligence (scientists)
- **Musical** intelligence (violinists)
- **Spatial** intelligence (sculptors)
- **Bodily-kinesthetic** intelligence (dancers)
- **Interpersonal** intelligence (therapists)
- **Intrapersonal** intelligence (spiritualists)
- **Naturalist** intelligence (biologists)

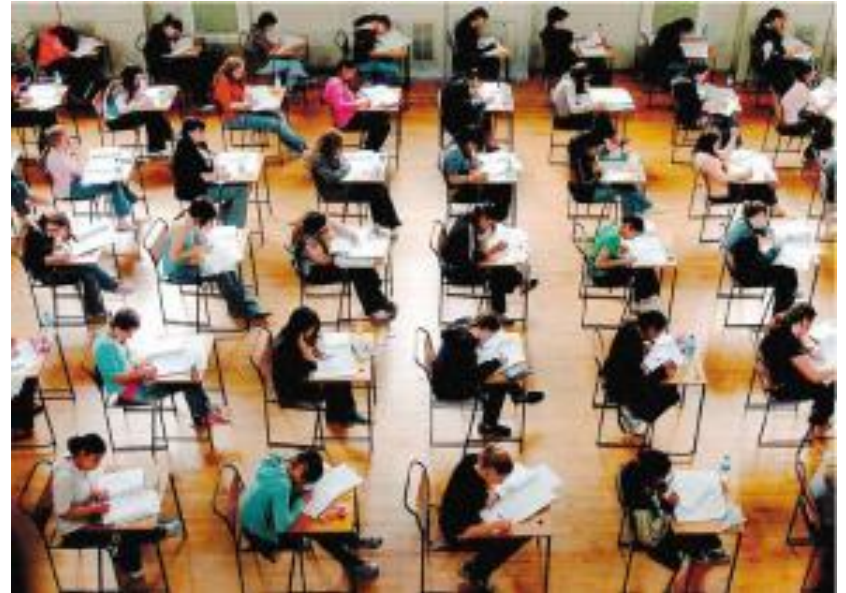
# Implications

- Our school system, textbooks, and standardized tests tend to focus on linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligence while ignoring the six other intelligences



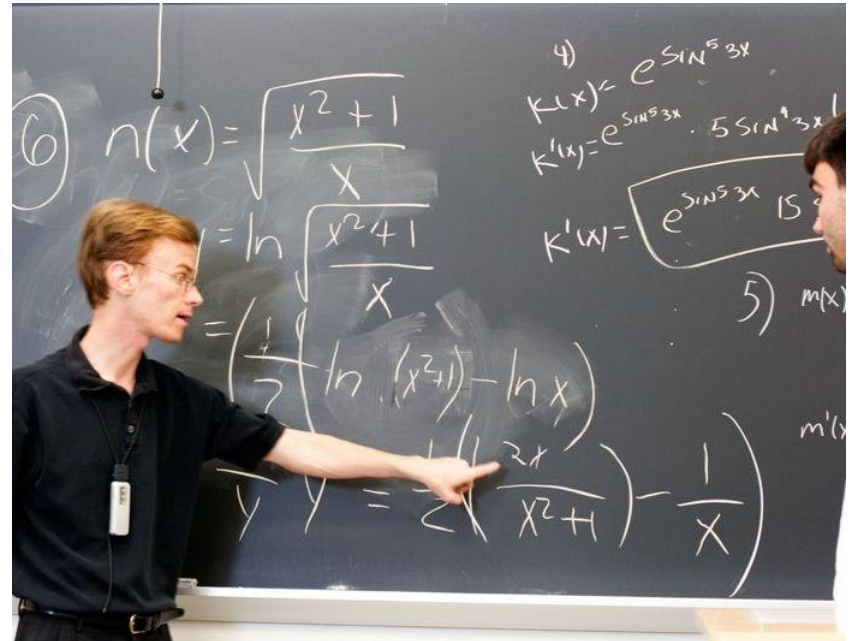
# Implications

- The traditional model says students who are talented in one area of school tend to be talented in all the others, but the theory of multiple intelligences challenges tradition



# Implications

- Some students are better at logical-mathematics than others, while others may specialize in pattern matching (naturalist intelligence) or some other area





# Implications

- Field trips and sports programs may be more important than we realize, because they encourage bodily-kinesthetic intelligence and on-foot learning



# Applications

- By dividing students into groups for team projects, teachers can foster interpersonal intelligence, and, indirectly, intrapersonal intelligence



# Applications

- **Ability grouping** places students of similar aptitude and achievement together so they receive instruction targeted to their specialty



# Applications

- **Within-class** ability grouping divides students in one class into groups, whereas **between-class** ability grouping divides all students in a whole grade into classes





# Applications

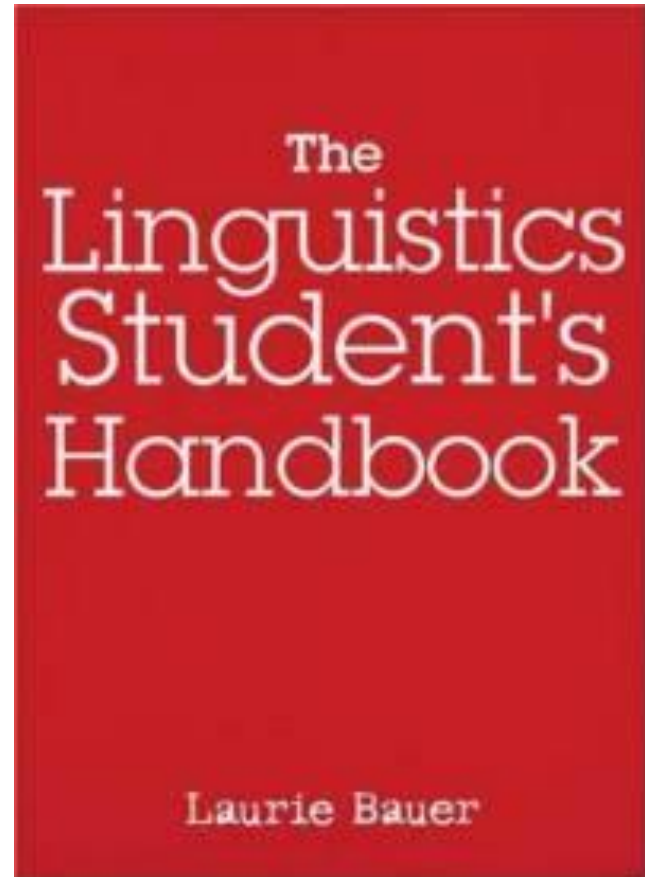
- In middle and high school, **tracking** places students into classes on the basis of ability and career goals (an academic “track”), hopefully developing their preferred intelligences



# The Intelligences

# Linguistic Intelligence

- Characterized by a sensitivity to language arts, the meaning of words, their order, and inflections
- Examples:
- Poet, linguist



# Logical-Mathematical Intelligence

- Characterized by the ability to process long strings of information, complex reasoning, and recognize patterns in the world
- Examples: Scientist, mathematician





# Musical Intelligence

- Characterized by a sensitivity to pitch, melody, tone, rhythm, harmony, timbre, and other elements of music
- Examples:
- Composer, violinist



# Spatial Intelligence

- Characterized by accurate three-dimensional perception of the world and the ability to control perceptions



- Examples:
- Sculptor, navigator

# Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

- Characterized by a fine-tuned ability to use the body and to handle objects
- Examples:
- Dancer, athlete



# Interpersonal Intelligence

- Characterized by an understanding of interpersonal relations and an understanding of others
- Examples: Therapist, salesperson



# Intrapersonal Intelligence

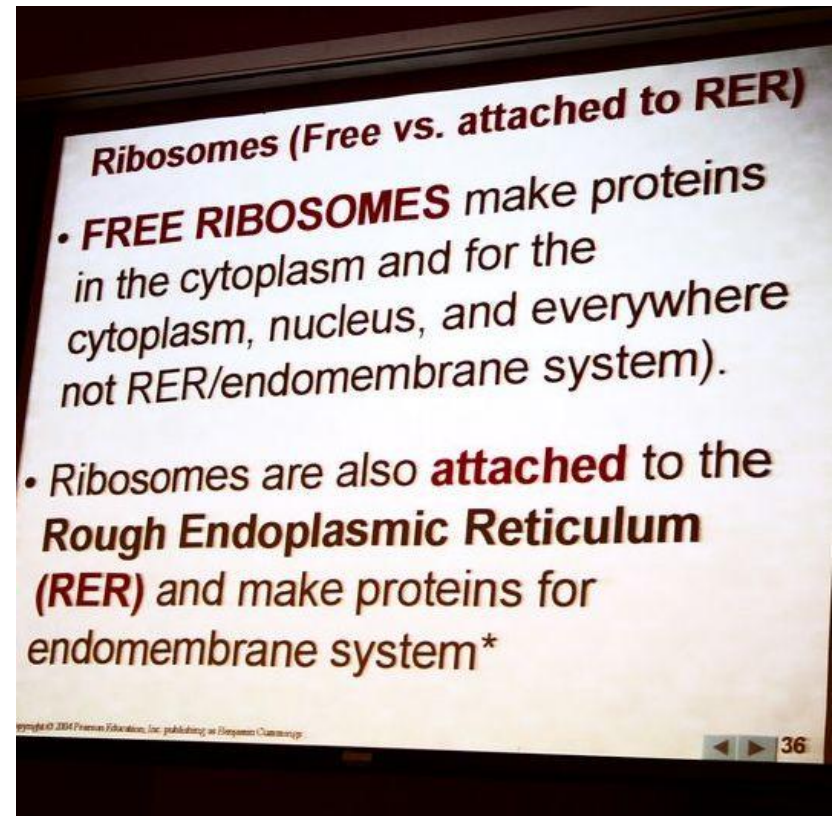
- Characterized by access to one's own "feeling life," and an understanding of one's self
- Examples:  
Philosopher, self-aware individual





# Naturalist Intelligence

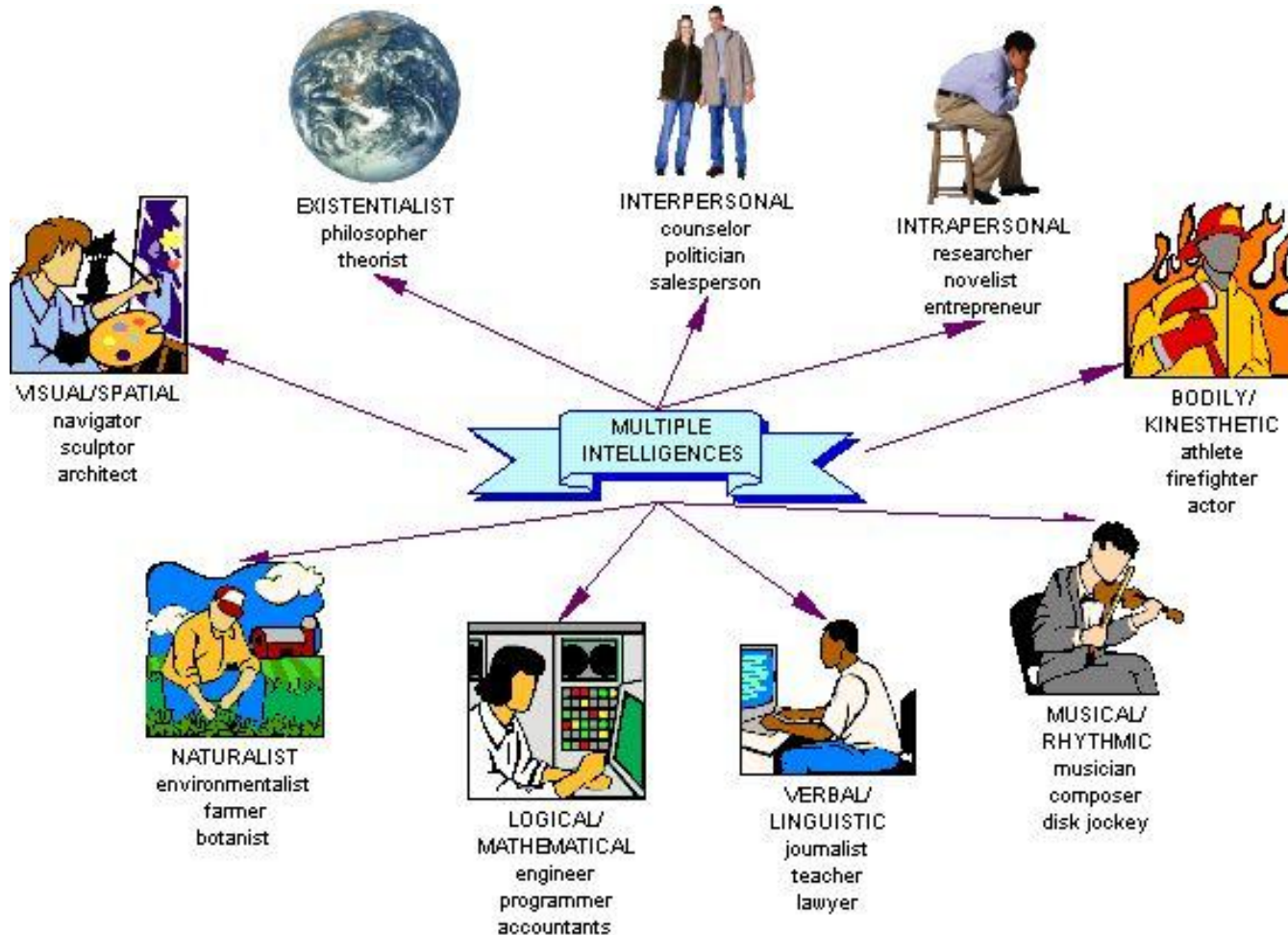
- Characterized by the ability to recognize similarities and differences in the physical world
- Examples: Biologist, anthropologist



# Criticisms

- While M.I.-theory is popular among educators, some critics say it has not been validated by research.
- Others disagree that the different domains, such as spatial and naturalist, qualify as different forms of intelligences.
- Either way, students need experience with each dimension to develop different skills and be well-rounded.

# Conclusion



- Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences is a useful tool for explaining specialties and student achievement.