

Practical Intelligence

Practical intelligence is the ability to apply knowledge to the real world. This could also be termed “street smarts”. According to TriMind: Differentiating for Sternberg’s Thinking Styles (n.d.), students that are practical thinkers might exhibit these characteristics:

- like to see the real-world application of things,
- excellent at implementing plans,
- a “doer,”
- highly effective in making things “happen,”
- organized,
- less interested in ideas than in action,
- likes to move and do when learning,
- can be an excellent leader,
- may struggle with creativity-for-creativity’s-sake assignments,
- may resist completing assignments for which they see no real-world purpose,
- can work very well in group situations,
- may not be traditionally “book smart”

Teaching practically means encouraging students to apply, use, put into practice, implement, employ and render practical what they know. Here are some examples from across the curriculum. **Apply** the formula for computing compound interest to a problem people are likely to face when planning for retirement (Economics, Math). **Implement** a business plan you have written in a simulated business environment (Business). **Employ** the formula for distance, rate, and time to compute a distance (Math). (Sternberg, 2004).

A practically intelligent person has the ability to either adapt to their environment or shape their environment or they move to a different environment where their goals are met.

Sternberg, R. (2004). Successful intelligence in the classroom. Retrieved from

http://arowe.pbworks.com/f/Sternberg_on_intelligences.pdf

The TriMind Strategy Guide. (n.d.) Retrieved from

[http://lcps.k12.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/The-TriMinder-Strategy-Guide.](http://lcps.k12.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/The-TriMinder-Strategy-Guide.pdf)

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