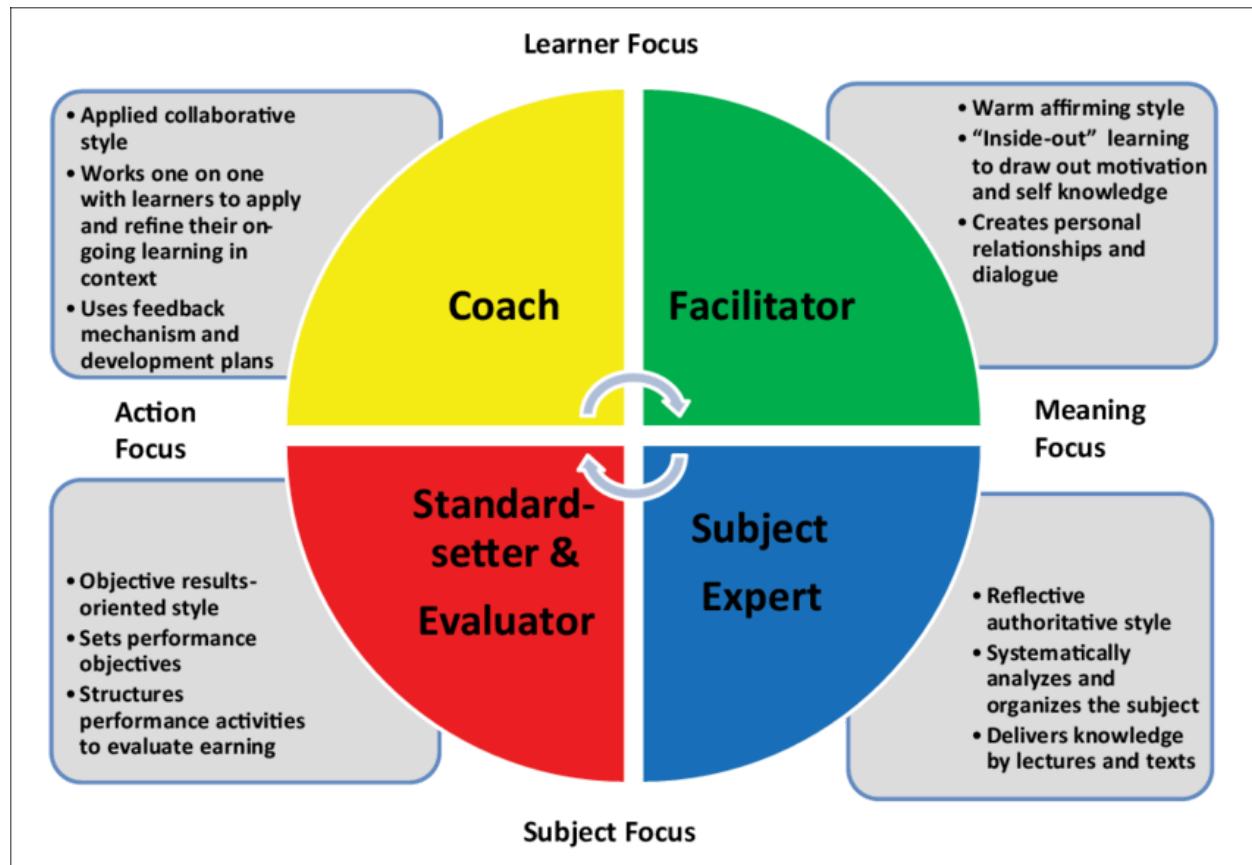


The Role of the Experiential Educator

Once you have identified the need for an experiential component within the classroom and know how your values and strengths support this or can be adapted in order to successfully accomplish this, it is also important to have a grounding in what the role of experiential educator is at different stages of the experience. Kolb breaks the role of an experiential educator into [four common roles](#) that most educators adopt at some point during experiential learning activities (Kolb & Kolb, 2017; Kolb et al., 2014):



source: Experience Based Learning Systems Inc.

<https://learningfromexperience.com/themes/kolb-educator-role-profile-erp/>

(continued on next page)

- **Facilitator:** help learners get in touch with their personal experiences, interests, motivations and/or prior knowledge and reflect on it through the use of a warm, affirming style. This might take the form of small group conversation with the intent of developing trusting relationships with the learners.
- **Subject Expert:** help learners organize and connect their knowledge of the subject matter through the use of an authoritative, reflective style. This might mean teaching with examples and critical thought through lectures or texts in order to organize and analyze knowledge.
- **Standard-Setter/Evaluator:** help learners master the application of knowledge and skill in order to meet expectations through an objective, results-oriented style. This might be through the use of performance activities for learners to evaluate their learning.
- **Coach:** help learners apply knowledge to achieve their goals through the use of a collaborative, encouraging style. This may entail working one-on-one with learners in the creation of personal development plans and/or providing feedback on performance.

These four roles of the experiential educator also map directly onto Kolb's experiential learning cycle. Bringing your students through the experiential learning cycle also typically means working through the educator roles attached to those quadrants of the cycle as well.