

Learning Experience: what do you think is happening here?

Dr. Tomalty is in her second year of residency. She is facilitating small group case studies with four clerks. Dr. Tomalty is very actively involved in discussing the cases with the clerks, but uses few visual aids as she finds them distracting & too time consuming - she values lively dialogue & debate. She is quick to praise those in the group who are very rapid with their differential diagnoses & who contribute the most to the discussion. She also feels it is important for her learners to discover how to reason clinically on their own - she has always found the best methods for her have been trial & error. As long as her learners have the "big picture" she feels they will find their way through the cases. Because of her extensive knowledge base, Dr. Tomalty often digresses from the case discussion to give her learners interesting theoretical concepts in her field & anecdotal stories.

Two of Dr. Tomalty's clerks give her extremely high ratings & find her a wonderfully engaging educator. However, the other two clerks seem unmotivated, rate Dr. Tomalty poorly, & are very discouraged with their learning experience.

1. What are some possible reasons why two clerks are so positive about Dr. Tomalty while the other two are disappointed with her teaching?
2. What are some ways Dr. Tomalty could improve the learning experience for the two frustrated clerks without creating a less positive experience for the others?