Overview: Computer Mediated Communication (CMC) and e-learning offers students a new paradigm in learning; breaking down the barriers of proximity, availability, and access to information. Activites, rules and relationships must be redefined to align to the new electronic learning environments of campfires, watering holes, caves and context within this technology interface. As communication rules must be established to respect our peers this respect must extend into our collaborative groups and established activities the learners are participating within.

Within this week's reading, **Facilitating Critical Thinking** from *Developing Critical Thinkers* Brookfield outlines strategies to facilitate critical thinking in ourselves and our peers. To develop one's own critical thinking, it is imperative to understand your personal style and pattern of learning. To support diversity, flexibility and differentiation within a collaborative group, understanding others biases, preferences and blockages are paramount to move the group past confrontations and encourage growth towards collective learning.

Discussion Post Questions:
Respond to question 1 and one other prompt of your choice.

1. What general approach, or learning style (strength), do you use to explore new areas of learning? Which learning style is least comfortable (weakness)? Offer supporting examples.

2. Within the four electronic learning spaces (campfires, watering holes, caves and context) what suggestions would you offer to improve one or more of the spaces to adjust for *your* weakness?

3. In your opinion, do you feel any of the four learning spaces (campfires, watering holes, caves, context) support one type of a learning style more so that another? If so, how would you improve one or more of the learning areas to reflect the differentiation of all learning styles?

4. Image you are able to create your ideal on-line learning environment. What would it look like? Please include content delivery, collaboration, and evidence/artifacts of learning.

Resources:
Select one or more of the following links to learn about learning style strengths and weaknesses.

http://www.edutopia.org/multiple-intelligences-assessment

http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/

http://www.educationplanner.org/students/self-assessments/learning-styles.shtml

http://webtools4u2use.wikispaces.com/Finding+the+Right+Tool#Finding the Right Tool

Citation:

Brookfield, S. (n.d.). Effective Strategies for Facilitating Critical Thinkers. In *Developing Critical Thinkers* (pp. 71-88). From https://www2.uwstout.edu/content/profdev/elearning/three/read3.html .