# The Dependent and Independent Learner

**\*\* from Zaretta Hammond’s *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students***

The Dependent Learner…

is dependent on the teacher to carry most of the cognitive load of a task.

is unsure of how to tackle a new task.

will sit passively and wait if stuck until teacher intervenes.

doesn’t retain information well or “doesn’t get it.”

can’t relate a text or topic to the world around them.

do not know their own strengths and weaknesses.

is not driven by a curiosity to learn things.

The Independent Learner…

relies on the teacher to carry *some* of the cognitive load *temporarily*.

chooses from many learning strategies and writing processes when tackling a new task.

regularly attempts new tasks.

has strategies for getting unstuck.

understand where they need to improve.

are aware of external constraints on their learning (work, noise in the home, etc).

has learned how to retrieve information from long-term memory.

wants to learn new things.