

Panel 3:
Self-Directed Learning

Jeanne

David

Jack

Don't criticize what you can't understand
Your sons and your daughters are beyond your
command
The whole world is rapidly changin'

- B. Dylan

I don't have a definition of jazz... You're just supposed to know it when you hear it.

[Thelonious Monk](#)

Self-directed learning has been described as "a process in which individuals take the initiative, with or without the help of others," to diagnose their learning needs, formulate learning goals, identify resources for learning, select and implement learning strategies, and evaluate learning outcomes

(Malcom Knowles 1975).

- Whether or not learning is self-directed depends not on the subject matter to be learned or on the instructional methods used.
- Self-directedness depends on who is in charge—who decides what should be learned, who should learn it, what methods and resources should be used, and how the success of the effort should be measured. To the extent the learner makes those decisions, the learning is generally considered to be self-directed.

A Continuum of Self-directed Learning Strategies

