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## Information-processing and perceptions of control: How attribution style affects task-relevant processing

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### Abstract

This study investigated the effects of perceived controllability on information processing within Weiner's (1985, 1986) attributional model of learning. Attributional style was used to identify trait patterns of controllability for 37 university students. Task-relevant feedback on an information-processing task was then manipulated to test for differences in working memory function between participants with high versus low levels of trait controllability. Processing efficiency occurred differently for hi-trait and lo-trait types. Results supported the hypothesis that trait controllability exerts a moderating effect on the way task-relevant feedback is processed. A selective encoding of information was evident, involving processing limitations inherent to the working memory system. These findings mark an important consideration for the way in which information is presented during the learning process.

[Link to full text paper pdf \(2505KB\)](#)

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