



Retrieval Practice

Making Meaning



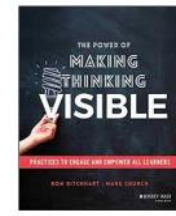
What is Retrieval Practice?

Retrieval practice refers to the act of recalling information from memory as a means of improving long-term retention. This involves actively retrieving information rather than simply reviewing or rereading it. Retrieval practice is a useful technique in the classroom because it has been shown to enhance learning and improve memory recall. By engaging in retrieval practice, students are able to identify gaps in their knowledge and reinforce their understanding of key concepts. It also helps to promote deeper learning by encouraging students to think critically and apply their knowledge in different contexts.

Ultimately, retrieval practice can lead to better academic performance and greater success in the classroom.

A word, concept, or event is identified as the focus for this routine. Groups then work through each of the following prompts, recording their responses on chart paper to make collective meaning:

- Taking turns, each person responds to the chosen focus with a single word. Each person's word must be unique so that it adds to the collective meaning.
- Each person adds on to someone else's word with an additional word or phrase so as to elaborate in some way.
- Each person makes a connection between ideas that are already written on the chart paper, drawing lines and writing on those lines to illuminate the connections.
- Each person records a question that about the topic of focus based on what is emerging.
- Based on the group's "Making-Meaning discussion" on chart paper, each individual now writes their own definition of the word, topic, concept, or event being explored.



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