

The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #8

Remembering information is easier when we connect it to something we already know. It is a bit like building a house on a strong foundation: it helps to keep everything in place and not slip away over time. This strategy is about reminding you to make connections, not just to prior knowledge but also between new ideas. Look for connections when you are working on your own, and then as a group share those ideas to build a web of interconnected ideas and information. Representing that in a visual way can enhance memory of that information as well.

Making Connections



STEP 1: On Your Own...

As you are working on a topic, regularly pause and make connections between new ideas/ concepts/ characters.

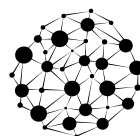
Reflect on how these new connections might also connect to ideas/ concepts/ characters you had encountered before.

Note down what ideas are connected and how.

You might want to use a prompt like, "When I learnt about...[new idea/concept/ character] it connected to ...[something already known] because..."

Make a time with your group to share connections on this topic.

STEP 2: With Your Group...



As a group, share the connections you have each found on the topic.



Use an online collaborative tool to represent the connections between ideas. Maybe visualise these in a mind map, a timeline, a character map, or a family tree.



As a group, discuss and explain the connections.



Are there any connections you don't understand?

Are there any connections missing?



Develop strategies for your group to address anything that is unclear.

STEP 3: On Your Own...

Revise the connections discussed in the group session.



As you continue to work through the topic, keep developing connections between ideas/ concepts/ characters.

