

The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #9

When we have a lot of information to remember or ideas to connect together, it can be a bit overwhelming. Often this information or these ideas are in written form. However, when key ideas are represented visually as well - using pictures or graphics - it has been shown to make recalling or remembering them easier. This strategy encourages you and your group to identify important key ideas or information and explore ways to represent these visually.

Represent It!

STEP 1: On Your Own...

When working on a particular topic or subject, identify some key ideas or information that will be important to remember. This could be different genres of music, themes in a text, or scientific principles, for example.

Make a list of these key ideas to share with the group.



STEP 2: With Your Group...

In the group, everyone share the key ideas that they have found, and discuss their meaning and importance.

As a group, discuss the characteristics of these key ideas - these characteristics should give you insight into how you might represent the ideas visually.

Search for or create a simple image that captures those characteristics.

Decide on an image for each idea, and discuss as a group to make sure everyone can see the connections.

Before ending the group session, look at each of the images and check everyone can recall what it represents.

STEP 3: On your own...



Every couple of days look at the images and write down or tell someone what they represent.

Are there any representations that you are struggling with? Are there any ideas that you still find difficult to recall? How might you address this?

Continue to build a list of ideas that can be represented visually as you work through different subjects and topics.

Make connections between the different ideas in a topic or subject.