Handout: Module 3, Retrieval Practice

Essence of the Retrieval Practice Strategy
Practicing regularly by retrieving important information from your long term memory.

Advice for Students
Develop flashcards explaining principles, concepts, and procedures in your own words. Test yourself and check your response to make sure that what you recall is accurate and complete. Spend more time studying areas that are difficult for you.

Advice for Faculty
Give students pre-tests on important information, and periodically use low-stakes or no-stakes quizzes and tests to check their understanding. Provide feedback to clarify understanding. Use open-ended rather than recognition questions on exams.

Recommended Readings on Retrieval Practice
Presented in alphabetical order, the books below provide an excellent detailed description of learning science. Below each, I have noted particular chapters from each that relate to retrieval practice. You may also wish to look in each book’s index under such terms as generation effect, pre-testing, recall, retrieval practice, self-testing, testing, and testing effect for additional, relevant information.


References Associated with the Retrieval Practice Video

For more information about test anxiety and testing strategies, please see pages 119-120 (part of Chapter 7) and 244-246 (part of Chapter 17) in: Oakley B. *A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel at Math and Science (Even If You Flunked Algebra)*. New York, NY: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 2014.

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