Handout: Module 5, Elaboration

**Essence of the Elaboration Strategy**¹⁻⁴
Elaboration is expanding the breadth and depth of your understanding and the strength of your memories for important knowledge and skills. Elaboration helps by increasing the number and variety of cues associated with the information in your brain.

**Advice for Students**¹⁻⁴
During each study session, vary aspects of your routine, including where you study (e.g., library, coffee shop, and classroom), how you study (e.g., reading, writing, reflecting, and discussing), and when you study (e.g., morning, afternoon, and evening). Try to apply new knowledge and skills to different and more complex situations.

**Advice for Faculty**¹⁻⁴
Engage students in different ways throughout the course. In addition to brief didactics, give students opportunities to engage other senses, such as through reading, writing, and discussing key ideas after some reflection. In addition to exams, include other assignments (e.g., papers, presentations, and projects) that extend understanding and solidify memories through different senses and experiences.

**Recommended Readings on Elaboration**
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 elaboration. You may also wish to look in each book’s index under such terms as context, context change, and varied practice for additional, relevant information.

   Chapter 3, Mix Up Your Practice
   Chapter 8, Make It Stick

   Chapter 3, The Effect of Context on Learning

   Chapter 4, Using All Your Senses to Learn

   Chapter 10, Enhancing Your Memory
   Chapter 11, More Memory Tips
References Associated with the Elaboration Video


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