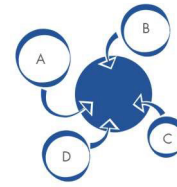


Study Strategy #6 - Connect It

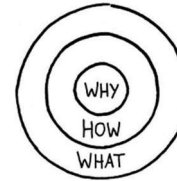
Elaborative Interrogation: Explanation through connections

What is it?

Elaborative Interrogation involves explaining and describing ideas with many details. The process involves making connections among ideas you are trying to learn and connecting material.



Asking 'what', 'why' and 'how' questions encourage the production of explanations for the ideas you are learning. The process integrates new material with the things you already know or have experienced.



Study Strategies that Employ Elaborative Interrogation

Exemplar study strategies that use Elaborative Interrogation are:

- 1. Make a List:** List key ideas from a current topic. Then, go down the list and ask yourself questions about how these ideas work together (or not) and why. The nature of the process can underpin the formation of a Brain Dump.
- 2. What, How and Why:** By using this questioning scaffold, students will start to go from the basic recall of information (What) and then through explanation (How) will begin to see the connections between (Why).
- 3. SketchNotes:** Combines traditional handwritten notes with drawings, symbols, and other visual elements. The resulting map of ideas, with clear visual cues, reduces to effort and time to revisit the information.

Best Subjects to Apply Elaborative Interrogation

English

Humanities

Sciences

The Arts

What is the evidence of its impact?

Woloshynn, Pressley and Schneider (1992) compared the average test performance of learners with high or low domain knowledge who used either Elaborative Interrogation or reading only during learning. It was found that students who used Elaborative Interrogation outperformed those who relied on reading by 12% (low knowledge) and 23% (high knowledge).

