

Maximizing Multiple Memory Pathways

Rule 1: *Never assume that because your students don't recall information easily that they don't know it. It may be stored in a different pathway.*

Rule 2: *For maximum recall, store learning in multiple pathways AND follow up with review 10 minutes, 2 days, and 1 week later.*

How We Retrieve Our Memories:

Semantic

Teach students how to make and use acronyms, key words, peg words, word associations, and mnemonics. Remind them that all reading must be processed as it's read by mapping, journaling, or discussion. Encourage students to create multiple categories and groupings for their learning.

Episodic

Allow students to learn standing up, sitting on the floor, or sitting on the desk. Prepare lessons that take the class outside, in the cafeteria, or on a field-trip. Bring in guest speakers, change the lighting, let kids wear costumes, etc. Remember the movie "Dead Poet's Society"? Experiences that engage your students' imaginations and emotions, and are novel in character and location will be "ascribed" a special memory "address" in the brain that will be easier to recall.

Procedural

Ensure that students get to move as a way to embed learning. Engage motion, hands-on learning, manipulatives, stretch breaks, drama, theater, and role-play.

Reflexive

Students can learn through the productive engagement of strong emotions, as well as with flashcard-type learning that becomes automated with repetition.

In summary to maximize memory, engage emotions, and provide variety repetition, and movement.