LEARN TO STUDY USING...

Elaboration

EXPLAIN AND DESCRIBE IDEAS WITH MANY DETAILS

HOW TO DO IT

Ask yourself questions while you are studying about how things work and why, and then find the answers in your class materials and discuss them with your classmates.

As you elaborate, make connections between different ideas to explain how they work together. Take two ideas and think of ways they are similar and different.

Describe how the ideas you are studying apply to your own experiences or memories. As you go through your day, make connections to the ideas you are learning in class.

HOLD ON!

Make sure the way you are explaining and describing an idea is accurate. Don’t overextend the elaborations, and always check your class materials or ask your teacher.

Work your way up so that you can describe and explain without looking at your class materials.

RESEARCH

Read more about elaboration as a study strategy


Content by Yana Weinstein (University of Massachusetts Lowell) & Megan Smith (Rhode Island College) | Illustrations by Oliver Caviglioli (teachinghow2s.com/cogsci) | Funding provided by the APS Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science