

The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #4



To understand something more deeply we need to be able to connect it to something we already know. As we learn more about a topic or concept, we build a more complex web of knowledge. ELABORATION is a strategy that can help us to build deeper understanding and add more complex ideas to memory. Rather than just recall the simple facts, ELABORATION requires us to provide more detail and make more connections, and this helps us to remember more about this topic or idea for longer.

DEVELOPING DEEP UNDERSTANDING



STEP 1: On Your Own...

Whenever you study, read, or do some homework, write one question about something that puzzles you, or that makes you wonder. Maybe use the starter: "I am not sure about..."

OR

"I wonder..."



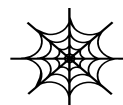
STEP 2: With Your Group...



Each group member shares their question.



Discuss and look through your resources for responses.



Elaborate on the concept to build connections and a deeper understanding.



If the group is still unclear, compose an email to your teacher or another expert.



STEP 3: On Your Own...

Write a paragraph on this concept, using the elaboration discussed in the group.

How will you retain this understanding, revisit it, and build on it in the future?