Memory: Samples of Memory Devices

(Adapted from Dave Ellis' Becoming A Master Student, 14th Edition)

Organize Information

Organize – called chunking – by category, event, chronologically, alphabetically, etc. Create your own groups, if needed.

Learn in small sets – magic number is 7, plus or minus 2 – learn in sets of 5 to 9 items.

Incorporate your learning style or styles into your memory device.

Ask yourself, "Does this resemble material I already know?"

Create Acronyms, Coined Words

Qualities of a scientist:

CHOPP

C = Curiosity

H = high intelligence

O = originality

P = patience

P = perseverance

Greatest rivers in the world:

NAMOY

N = Nile

A = Amazon

M = Mississippi

O = Ob

Y = Yangtse

Create Acrostics – Creative Sentences

Doesn't a King put crowns on five Girl Scouts? =

Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species

My very excited mother just sent us noodles. =

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Use visualization....

Attach post-it notes to your furniture and recall the order of the furniture in your living room, etc. Visualize the object, and then visualize the label.

Create your own charts, Venn diagrams, mind maps, pictures.

Create rhymes and songs...

Make up your own jingles and rhymes. Example, I before e, except after c.

Use the peg system, this system uses key words paired with numbers. Each word forms a "peg" on which you can "hang" a mental association.

- 1 goes with bun.
- 2 goes with shoe.
- 3 goes with tree, etc.

Use Study Cards

Making cards produces kinetic energy. It makes a stronger impression on the brain.

The cards are available for repeated study sessions or add them to a big key ring for easy transport and usage. Reciting aloud from cards is another active way to study and it also creates a strong impression on the brain. Write cards with a question on one side and the answer on the other side.

Use different colored pens or makers to create your study cards.

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