The Open Faculty Patchbook

A Community Quilt of Pedagogy

Patch Three: Sheets Ain't Cheats

Reference link: <u>Sheets Ain't Cheats</u>

For my Thought Vectors and Nuggets activity I have selected the patch - Sheets Ain't Cheats by Katrina Van Osch-Saxon.

The most poignant statement in this patch for is:

"Memorization is not a measure of understanding."

My Perspective

From a personal perspective I can share that as a student I struggled with the act of memorizing information or course content. I employed all of the tactics that I was aware of; cue cards, repetition, acronyms, etc. The focus on memorization so consumed me that I never synthesized the information. No meta-cognition occurred. My measure of success was my ability to reproduce the memorized content.

The Patch Resonance

Study Sheets

Katrina Van Osch-Saxon explores in the patch the importance of organizing information in the form of 'study sheets' (see example) and proposes these benefits to students:

1. They actually review the course material;

2. They think about the course material;

3. They learn what they already know;

4. They learn what they don't know (and add it to their study sheet);

5. They are more prepared (most times) for the test; and

6. They are more confident and feel less anxious about the exam because they have something to refer to if they require help.

My Revelation

How I Learn

Somewhere along my learning journey I came to the realization that I was not good at memorization but I was efficient at organizing information. Developing schema and organizing data was my strong point. Additionally, I found that visualization was a component of my organization. When I examined the study sheet example - this made perfect sense to me. That type of information organization resonated with me and made this patch relevant. I support Katrina Van Osch-Saxon premise that memorization is not learning. That the path to understanding lies, for me, in organizing data.

Organizing Information

Example of completed Forest Entomology and Pathology Study Sheets from