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Why the Constructing a Building Metaphor is the Best Way to Learn

In the article *Just Scoring Points*, written by Walter R. Tschinkel, Tschinkel explains how students in the United States do not actually remember what they are being taught. Rather, they only learn what is taught just to be able to score points on their exams in order to receive the best grade and grade point average. He uses a sports metaphor to compare the approach in which most students learn (which involves preparing just before an exam and scoring as many points as possible) compared to the constructing a building metaphor (which involves adding facts and concepts like bricks in which each brick is connected to one another). Tschinkel also explains how he gave his students repeat question quizzes as part of the constructing a building metaphor. I agree with Tschinkel and believe that the constructing a building metaphor is how every student should learn since it is one of the best and effective way for students to truly understand what they are learning and why it is important.

Most courses are often prerequisites for other courses, so by truly learning the material rather than only learning it for the purpose of passing exams, it allows students to excel in classes where knowledge of material from previous courses is critical in order to understand the concepts being taught in current and future courses. With this logic, the grades of the students will reflect whether they learned the material or not. A student's grade point average mainly matters if the student is applying for grad school or in some cases their first job, but apart from that, the skills they acquired and the material they learned in college is what employers care

about during the hiring process. Therefore, it is better that the student honestly learns the concepts that are important for the job positions they are interested in to nail their interviews and show that they are suitable for the role they are applying for since employers in the workforce hire based on the candidates' experience and knowledge rather than their grade point average. The reason why students attend university is to secure a high paying job that they have an interest in, and in order to obtain that high paying job, it is important that they learn all the skills they need to be successful in their job.

Repetition as a technique of the constructing a building metaphor is, in my opinion, one of the best ways to learn material. By learning the material over and over again, it helps to strengthen the understanding of concepts. I never realized the importance of repetition until I went to an afterschool program called Kumon. They gave packets of math every week for students to solve and often had the same types of problems to solve for weeks, which is how I was able to breeze through the math taught at school since I had already mastered how to solve the same problems at Kumon. As a result, my grades were exemplary and I actually learned the material with the constructing a building metaphor rather than the sports metaphor.

I also, however, understand the viewpoint of the sports metaphor. Since elementary school, students are taught that grades matter and that receiving the best grades means securing their spot into a top-notch university. As a result, students care more about obtaining the best grades rather than truly learning the information since their priority is simply to display to the college admissions officers the stellar grades they received during their time in high school. I had the same mentality and all throughout high school I only cared about making sure I had the best grades in order to make sure I got into one of the best colleges. However, once students get to college, they understand the importance of making sure they understand the material being

taught rather than getting the best grades since they understand that classes are much harder and are designed to prepare them for working in the real world.

In conclusion, the constructing a building metaphor is a better approach for students to take when learning compared to the less successful sports metaphor, and one of the strategies which is best for the constructing a building metaphor is constant repetition when learning new material. In addition, the constructing a building metaphor does not just apply to grades and school. Learning takes place everyday for as long as we live, so being able to actually retain information is beneficial for us in the future when we gain new knowledge. Whether it be academics or general knowledge, the constructing a building metaphor is the best way to learn throughout the entirety of life.