

EXHIBIT 5.14. Read-aloud and Prompt: Retrieval Practice

Scientists have discovered that without any reinforcement, information is quickly forgotten, roughly 56 percent in one hour, 66 percent after a day, and 75 percent after six days.*

They have also found that the best kind of reinforcement is called “retrieval practice.” This means that you are pushed to remember something you have previously learned. Retrieval practice can be taking tests and quizzes, using flash cards, or teachers asking students at the end of class to share the most important thing they learned that day.

When you are pushed to “retrieve” that information, it then gets put into what is called long-term memory.

You may or may not think it’s important to remember a lot of what you learn in your classes.

However, it is important for three reasons:

One, of course, there will be tests in your classes (called “summative”) where you need to use the information you learned to answer questions or do projects way-past six days after you originally learned it.

Secondly, much of what you learn this year will help you do well in future classes you will take here and in college. If you forget the writing skills you learn in ninth grade English, you are going to have a lot of problems in 10th-grade English; not remembering what you learn in Geography is going to make your World History class much harder next year.

Thirdly, when we’re young, even though we tend to think we know all the answers, we don’t necessarily know what knowledge will help us in the future. That doesn’t mean we need to try to remember *everything* we learn. It just means that we need to be aware that some things we don’t think are important may be important in the future. It may not be wise to just dismiss a great deal of information from classes as not very useful to us.

*<https://www.edutopia.org/article/why-students-forget-and-what-you-can-do-about-it>

What does this read-aloud say about the importance of memory and retrieval practice. Do you agree with it? Please support your position with examples from the article, other texts you’ve read, and/or your observations and personal experiences.