

Teaching and Learning – 5 minutes

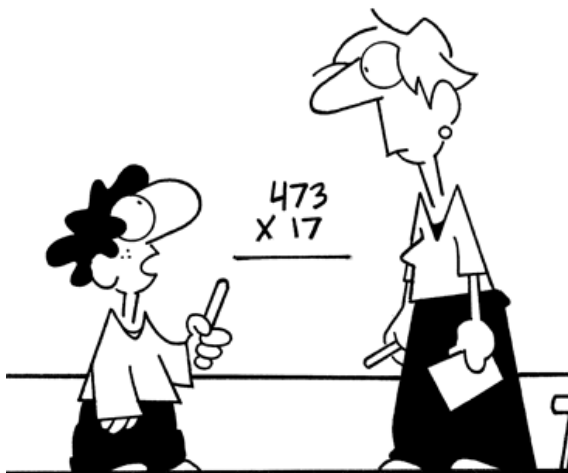
...over a hot brew!

Research, Resilience, and Reflection

Issue 28:



1. In Pictures:



“If we learn from our mistakes, shouldn't I make as many mistakes as possible?”

2. Education Research - COLD CALL

What is it: Cold Call is when a teacher decides who should answer from the class as a whole (rather than waiting for voluntary hands). In doing so a form of accountability is brought to the classroom. It establishes that students should always be ready to share their thoughts and participate.

Why do it: It allows you to check for understanding effectively and systematically at any time (including the non-hand-raisers); It signals to students that they are likely to be called on to participate, and therefore that they should engage in the work of the classroom – hence the accountability.

What does it look like: The process has three distinct phases:

- 1) Question to all
- 2) Wait to allow thinking time
- 3) Name the student that is to answer

Timing the 'Name' is crucial to success "Question - Pause to allow thinking time - Name." This format ensures that every student hears the question and begins preparing an answer during the pause period. If the name is called first, it signifies others do not have to think... and they will potentially switch off for that moment.

2. Did You Know

The Irrelevant Sound Effect

Can listening to music affect short-term memory performance?

[Dr. Nick Perham](#), is a lecturer in the School of Health Sciences at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff and has studied the effects music has on learning and in doing so has started to counter previous findings and underline what many may consider common sense. Here are some of his findings:

- If sound exhibits acoustical variations, or what Perham calls an "acute changing-state," **performance is impaired** (basically if the sound listened to changes). Steady-state sounds with little acoustical variation don't impair performance nearly as much. Unfortunately, commonly considered 'good music' (of all genres) relies on a series of variations in volume (dynamics), rhythm, harmony etc. Consequently, all may be considered distractions.
- In one of his more recent studies, Perham says, he found that reading while listening to music, especially music with lyrics, impairs comprehension. In this case, it's spoken lyrics, not acoustical variation that impairs productivity.
- Listening to liked or disliked music was exactly the same, and both were worse than the quiet control condition; both impaired performance on serial-recall tasks... maybe silence is golden! The student's response of "I like this one, it helps me relax" doesn't fit with his findings regarding learning.
- Listening to music **before** starting work, however, does engage what's known as the 'arousal and mood effect' and as a consequence can support learning.

4. To Ponder

It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop [[Confucius](#)]

The real fault is to have faults and not to amend them [[Confucius](#)]

Let us know your thoughts so we can share!