# **Testing is Teaching**

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#### Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for life.

<u>~Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie</u>

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## Learning Objectives



- Describe the potential positive impact of metacognition on learning behaviors.
- Describe barriers to implementing selfreflection in medical education.
- Determine how barriers to developing self-reflective processes can be overcome.
- Identify ways to incorporate learner self-reflection into development of curriculum, assessment and faculty.

#### Who is a Self-Regulated Learner?

A learner with a proactive approach to their learning experience.

Zimmerman, B. J. (2002). Becoming a self-regulated learner: An overview. *Theory into Practice*, 41(2), 64–70. <u>https://doi.org/10.1207/s15430421tip4102</u> (page 67)

### Traits of a Self-Regulated Learner

- Self-Aware
- Self-Motivated
- Ability to set proximal goals in learning
- Ability to identify appropriate learning strategy for given goal
- Self-Monitoring skills
- Reflection on own performance
- Willing to adjust strategy as needed for improved future performance
- Self-Evaluation of performance
- Adapt as needed
- Manage time appropriately to make all this possible



## Step 1... Metacognition

How one moves from being a "cognitively passive learner[s] to cognitively active learner[s]" (Zakrajsek, 2022, p. 96)



### Thinking about Learning

Metacognitive Regulation Building Blocks



#### TASK AWARENESS

STRATEGY AWARENESS

#### PERFORMANCE AWARENESS



Alvermann, D. E., Phelps, S. F., & Ridgeway, V. G. (2007). Content area reading and literacy (5th ed.). Boston. Pgs 350-352

#### **Task Awareness Questions**







#### WHAT ARE MY GOALS WHEN LEARNING?

WHAT DO I KNOW ABOUT THIS TOPIC ALREADY? (NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, EXPERT) IS THIS A TOPIC I STRUGGLE TO UNDERSTAND? CAN I PINPOINT WHY I STRUGGLE WITH "X" TOPIC?



Alvermann, D. E., Phelps, S. F., & Ridgeway, V. G. (2007). Content area reading and literacy (5th ed.). Boston. Pgs 350-352

### Strategy Awareness Questions



What strategies have worked for my brain when learning new data in the past?



Which resources align best with the strategies I want to employ?



How do I **organize** this material?



Which strategies do I want to apply to different types of information I need to learn?



#### **Performance Awareness Questions**



Can I successfully recall and/or apply the material on practice questions?



When I struggle with a topic, do I modify how I try to learn it or mentally flee the scene?



Do I strive to learn from my knowledge gaps in formative moments?



What type of mistakes did I make on the formative exam(s)? Why? Do I need to tinker with my current strategy for a given topic?





#### Potential Positive Impact of Metacognition on Learning

## Patel et. Al. (2015)

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|---|
|   |







4 Maladaptive themes Patel Et. Al. contend lead to a Cycle of Failure:

Problematic goals & strategies Not seeking and/or accepting support Normalizing failure & attributing it to external causes Protecting self-worth

Medical Students N = 55 5-year qualitative (Thematic Analysis) study.

University of Leicester University of Nottingham

Interviews with students who remediated

Patel, R., Tarrant, C., Bonas, S., Yates, J., & Sandars, J. (2015). The struggling student: A thematic analysis from the self-regulated learning perspective. Medical Education, 49(4), 417–426. https://doi.org/10.1111/medu.12651

## Barriers to Implementation



TIME

POOR UNDERSTANDING OF ITS VALUE MINDSET

15

## Overcoming Barriers

- Time spent on the front end is an overall time-saving measure.
- Incorporate metacognitive questions into learning moments to help students experience benefit and develop the habit.
- Developing a growth mindset in learners by promoting the importance of learning prior suboptimal learning opportunities (e.g., mistakes).





#### Error Reflection Method (ERM)

| Type 1  | I misread the question  |
|---------|---|
| Type 2  | I misunderstood the question  |
| Туре 3  | I ran out of time / skipped the question                                |
| Type 4  | I changed my answer to the wrong option                                 |
| Type 5  | I never saw this material before  |
| Type 6  | I learned this incorrectly  |
| Type 7  | The content looked familiar but I couldn't determine the correct answer |
| Туре 8  | I triaged studying this content   |
| Type 9  | I was convinced my answer was correct                                   |
| Type 10 | Other   |

1) Exam Post-Mortem and Error Analysis, UNBC Academic Success Center, 2013

2) M.F. Nolan, Medical Science Educator, Vol.25 (1), pp61-68, 2015

#### More Reflection More Gain

Increases in reported cognitive errors in formative assessments (increased self-reflection) were associated with increased gain score on subsequent summative assessments



(R = 0.3404, p = 0.002).

# What type of errors do medical students make?

Cognitive errors > Test-taking (p <0.001, t-test)

#### **Test-taking errors**

1-in-4 errors were test-taking errors Inconsistent with learner perception

#### **Cognitive errors**

**#5: I never saw this material before** *triaged material or poor study planning/behaviors* 

**#7: The content looked familiar but I couldn't determine the correct answer** - shallow learning behaviors

#8: I triaged studying this content

#9: I was convinced my answer was correct - *learning illusion* 



# Errors by discipline

#8: I triaged studying this content

Summative exam performance for Pharm and Embryo was good!





#### Error Reflection Method

Instructions: For each question you marked with an incorrect answer, please select the type of error you think you made from the table below. Completion of this worksheet is intended to help support your learning process and knowledge base development by illuminating why questions were missed. Please connect with faculty for content-related questions and/or with Emily Holt Foerst, PhD to talk through learning & cognition questions.

| Type 1  | I misread the question  |
|---------|---|
| Type 2  | I misunderstood the question  |
| Type 3  | I ran out of time/skipped the question                                  |
| Type 4  | I changed my answer to the wrong option                                 |
| Type 5  | I never saw this material before  |
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| Type 8  | I triaged studying this material  |
| Type 9  | I was convinced my answer was correct                                   |
| Type 10 | Other   |

| Question<br>Number/Identifier | Error<br>Type | Question<br>Number/Identifier | Error<br>Type |   | Question<br>Number/Identifier | Error<br>Type | 1 | Question<br>Number/Identifier | Error<br>Type |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|
|                               |               |                               |               |   |                               |               | ] |                               |               |
|                               |               |                               |               |   |                               |               | ] |                               |               |
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|                               |               |                               |               |   |                               |               | ] |                               |               |

Reference: Andrew P. Binks, R. Brock Mutcheson, Emily M. Holt & Renée J. LeClair (2022): A Simple and Sustainable Exercise to Enhance Student Self-Reflection on Error-Making, Focus Support, and Guide Curricular Design, Teaching and Learning in Medicine, DOI: 10.1080/10401334.2022.2033981 To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/10401334.2022.2033981





### Thank You!