

Making It Stick:
Using the Science of
Successful Learning in
Legal Writing Classrooms

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To learn legal research and writing,
old ways must die

They often die hard

New lessons must nestle in students' minds

Nestling takes *so darn long*

Students nod: *I got it*

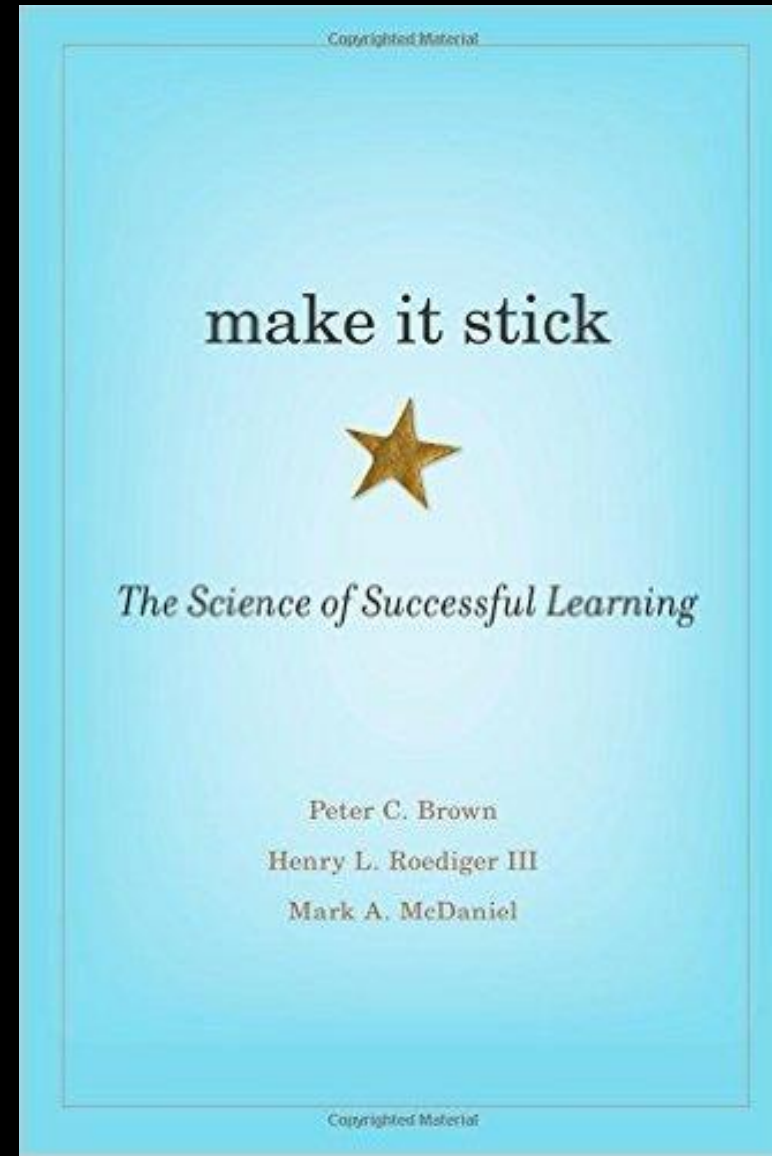
Their work says:

. . . not quite

New concepts just won't stick

*Make It Stick:
The Science of
Successful
Learning*

Peter C. Brown et al.,
2014



Topics:

2 Challenges

6 Strategies

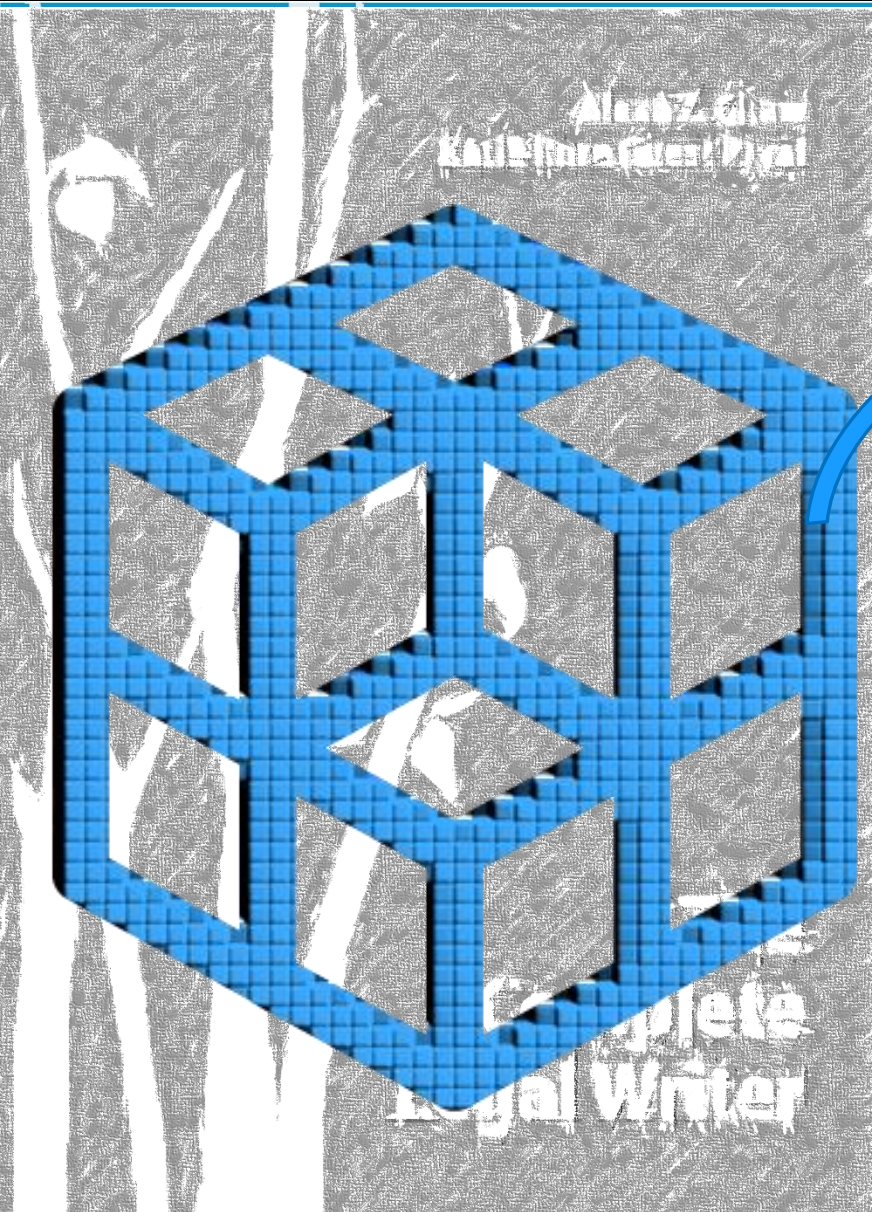
1 Tool

Lots of
Sharing

In order:

- *Indiv.* Challenge
- Strategies
- ***Try the Tool***
- *Collective*
Challenge
- Sharing

Challenge 1: Applicable Foundational Knowledge





6 Strategies *to make it stick*

Spaced Retrieval not mere *fluency*

Interleaving distinguish *types*

Generation try 1st; *struggle*

Calibration align *own* replies
with *best* replies

Elaboration find *layers* of meaning

Reflection retrieval + elaboration
(metacognition,
transfer, theorizing)

Try it: Team Quiz

1. **Individually Answer** (*2 min.*)

2. **Team** (*4-5 min.*)

- **Discuss**
- **Answer as Team**
- **Use Scratch-Off Card**

Strategies: Specifics

Retrieval

Quiz

Spaced

Long-term path-setting

Interleaved

Varied leaves, not blocks

Generation

Fill in blanks;
'awful blurting' +
engagement

Calibration

**Develop judgment;
remove illusions**

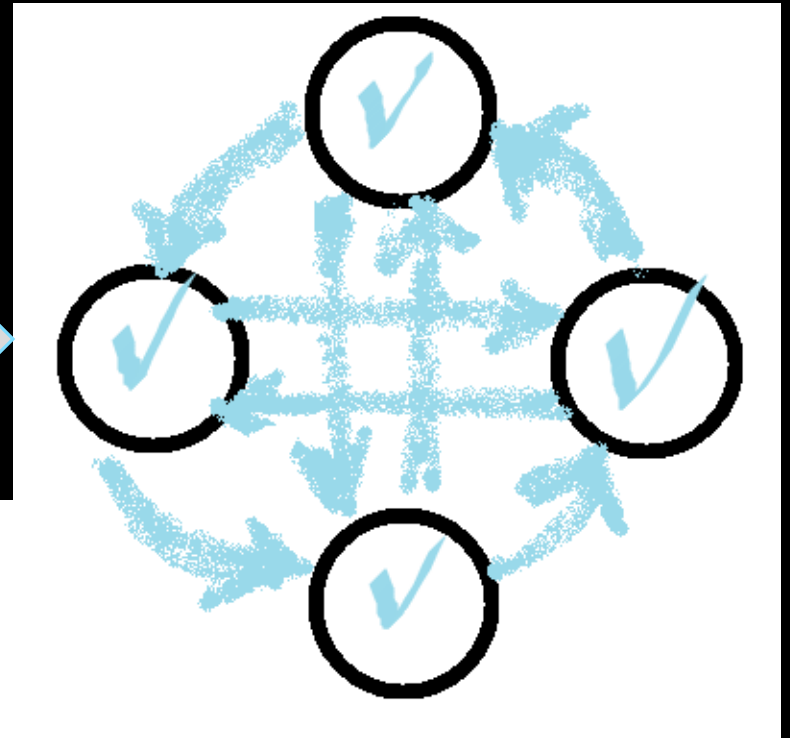
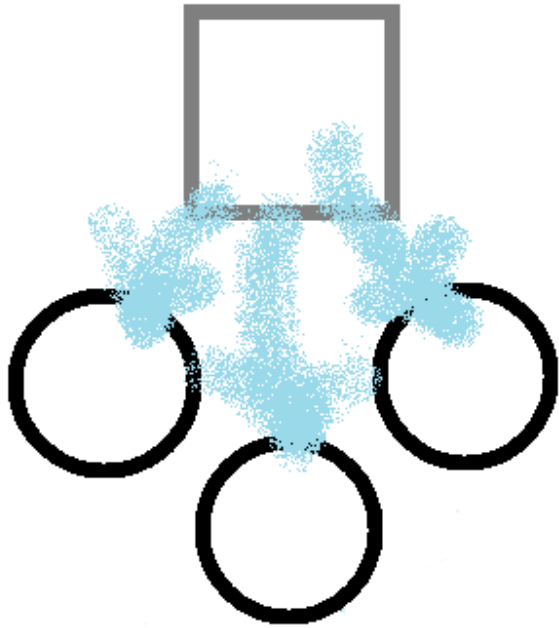
Elaboration

**Explain; relate;
form images**

Reflection

**Free recall;
summarizing;
planning**

Challenge 2: Professionalism



Team-Based Quizzing

‘TBL’—teambasedlearning.org

Melissa Weresh JLWI (2014)

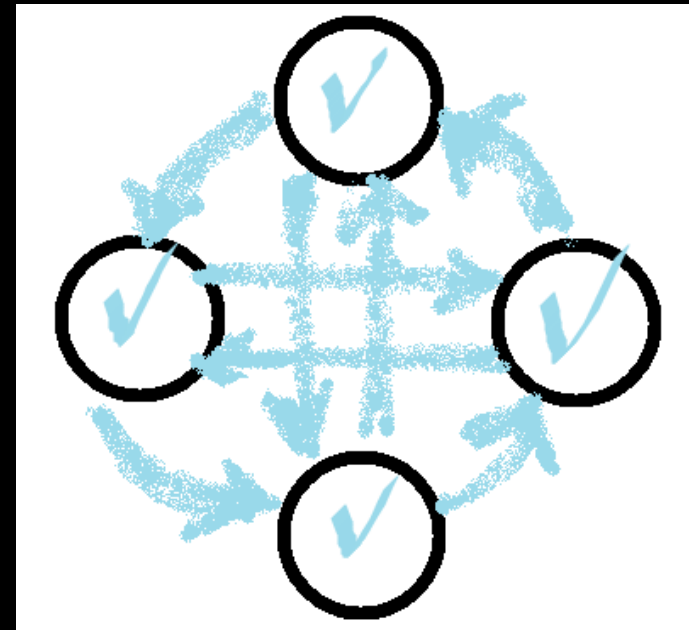
Sparrow & McCabe, JLWI (2012)

Sparrow (2011)

Perma-Teams

Sequence:

Indiv. → Team → Answer → All

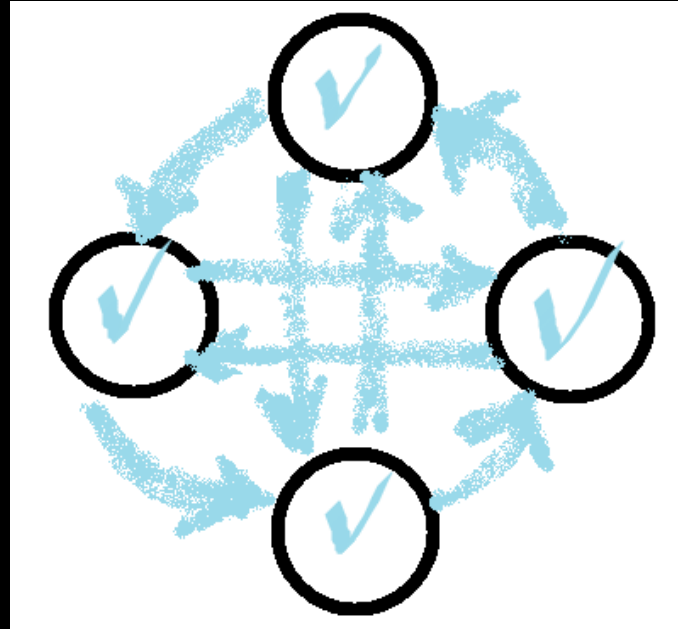


“You → Y’all → We”

(not “I → You → We”)

spaced/interleaved retrieval

- **You**—alone generate; *struggle*
- **Y’all**—teams elaborate; calibrate
- **We**—all further elaborate;
reflect



Avg. Test Scores:

Indiv. 79%, Team 96%

17% Difference

To make it stick:

Daring,

Reflective

Perseverance

in Community

Other Resources

Elizabeth Green, “Why Do Americans Stink at Math,” July 23, 2014, NY Times:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/27/magazine/why-do-americans-stink-at-math.html?_r=1

<http://www.cappress.com/books/isbn/9781611638127/The-Complete-Legal-Writer>

