

Abstract: Cognitive psychologists have a long tradition of research illuminating processes of learning and memory, yet their findings have rarely penetrated educational practice. This situation is starting to change. I will report on a program of research about the benefits of retrieval practice through quizzing as an aid to learning. Testing or quizzing is a practice usually considered only to measure what a student knows, but experimental research shows that retrieving information helps to stabilize the knowledge and make it easier to recall on future attempts. My presentation will provide evidence advancing from laboratory experiments to field experiments in classrooms showing how frequent quizzing can improve educational outcomes. If adopted, retrieval-enhanced learning may have farreaching implications for education at all levels. Many experimental or quasi-experimental studies in K-12 as well as university classrooms have shown meaningful benefits for students.

Biography: Roddy Roediger is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at Washington University. A psychologist who focuses on human learning and memory, his research interests include factors that greatly increase learning and retention and their application to education; memory illusions and the development of false memories; the study of people with highly superior memory abilities; and collective and historical memory. Roddy received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Washington & Lee University and his doctorate in cognitive psychology from Yale University. He previously taught at Purdue University, the University of Toronto, and Rice University. Roddy is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, and he has served as President of the Association for Psychological Science and Chair of the Governing Board of the Psychonomic Society, as well as serving in other leadership posts in organizations of psychologists. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Canadian Psychological Association. Roddy received the Association for Psychological Science's William James Lifetime Achievement Award, as well as their Lifetime Mentoring Award for his many graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who have gone on to success in the field. He is a member of the Society of Experimental Psychologists and received its Howard Crosby Warren Medal for his studies of illusory memories. Roddy recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Experimental Psychology and Cognitive Science.