



Creating Deep Learning Experiences: Helping Students Make Connections
Prepared by Dr. Kristi Dickey

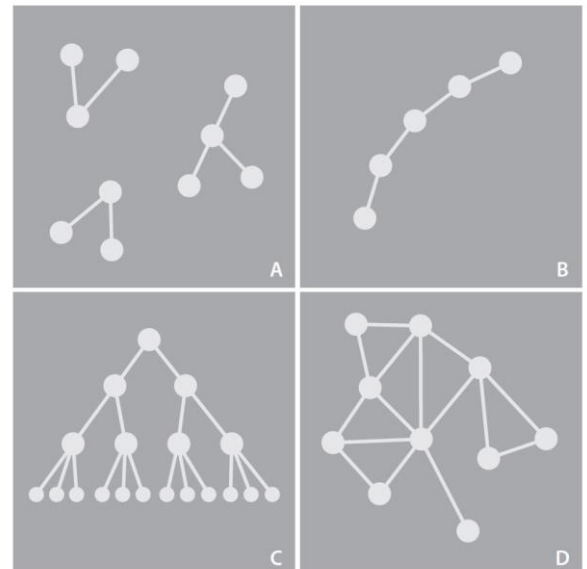
Key Takeaways

How students organize knowledge influences how they learn and apply what they know.

As the expert in your field (examples C and D), you have worked for years to create and maintain a complex mental network of important facts, concepts, and procedures related to your content area. Often, this is done unconsciously.

Novice learners have difficulty making these connections (examples A and B). A novice learner's network of knowledge is often sparse and/or disconnected.

There are several strategies that experts can use to help novice learners begin to build more sophisticated knowledge organizations.



Examples of knowledge organizations.

1. Identify your own knowledge structure by creating a concept map of your content.
2. Provide students with your organizational structure.
3. Provide organizational frameworks at the lesson level.
4. Activate students' prior knowledge.
5. As the expert, make your thinking transparent for students.
6. Devote class time to student practice of important concepts.
7. Make the learning relevant.
8. Provide case studies or scenarios by which students can anchor their learning.

This graphic can be found on page 50 in *How Learning Works: Seven Research-Based Principles of Smart Teaching*.