Linking Information with Knowledge for Enhanced Learning

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Enriching the Linkages

**Background:**
Learning happens when information (what?) received through senses is converted to knowledge (why?) that resides in the mind. This conversion process is achieved through enriching the linkages among information and knowledge in known scenarios. Enriched linkages lead to wisdom (what-if?) which is the ability to effectively apply information and knowledge to additional scenarios. Learning can be enhanced by relating course and lesson contents to knowledge and experiences gained outside the classroom.

**Goal:**
To enrich learning through creating linkages among lesson objectives, course objectives, and degree outcomes.

**Practice:**
All information provided in a lesson is linked to previous lessons. Linkages are enhanced through classroom demonstrations and discussions and opportunities to learn outside the classroom. Information is also linked to future lessons, course objectives, and overall degree program outcomes.

**Need:**
Learning in classroom needs continuous engagement and triggering of curiosity. A non-stop delivery of information without context becomes “blah-blah-blah”. There is a need to create a link at every step of the way in learning.

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Creating Connections to Other Courses and Degree Program:
A flowchart linking the course to other courses gives student a synoptic perspective.

**Other Lessons and Course Objectives:**
A figure linking different concepts helps students fill knowledge gaps.

**Benefits:**
Students show increased interest and engagement when contents are linked to their previous knowledge and experience. These students also demonstrate better learning during exams. Student evaluation comments indicate benefits of adopted practices. For example: “He brings demonstrations to class and makes the class fun!” “I liked the online assessments for the homework and tests.”