THE ART OF INSPIRING STUDENTS:

HOW TO "TRICK" STRUGGLING LEARNERS INTO STUDYING HARDER, LEARNING MORE, AND Raising GRADES
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ABOUT GRETCHEN WEGNER

As an academic life coach, Gretchen Wegner inspires young adults to uncover their true identities as capable, clever, and creative learners in school and in life. As a former middle and high school teacher, Gretchen Wegner noticed an epidemic – that the majority of her students were stressed out and bored with school because they lacked basic skills related to studying strategically, managing time, organizing, and advocating for themselves.

She left teaching to become an academic life coach so that she could address this epidemic head on. Her unique system, which she calls The Anti-Boring Approach to Powerful Studying™, has now helped hundreds of stressed out students thrive as they navigate the tricky transitions through high school, college and grad school. Not only has Gretchen coached hundreds of students in middle school through grad school, she now trains educators all over the world in her unique, powerful, and research-based system for transforming students into voracious, organized learners through her signature courses The Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically and The Anti-Boring Approach™ Coach Training Program.
A former Fulbright Fellow, Gretchen has a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and is a credentialed middle and high school teacher and certified facilitator of the InterPlay™ method. In addition to being an academic life coach, she helped found a charter school, designed a million-dollar peer education program; has taught teacher training workshops and arts-based residencies throughout the country; and is a founding member of the Bay Area Council of Academic Coaches.

In her spare time, Gretchen enjoys improvisation, swing dancing, and backpacking. She is a proud resident of Oakland, California.
INTRODUCTION

“To me, doing schoolwork was like dying for a short time.”

I ran across this description of schooling in the Sun literary magazine recently, and it struck me as oh-so-accurate.

For so many students, school is overwhelming and stressful. Doing homework and studying can feel “like dying for a short time” every day. Because it’s so boring, it’s hard for students to motivate themselves. Parents and educators watch – often helplessly! – as students get sucked into a procrastination wormhole. For some students, work never gets done or turned in; for others, they suffer through the studying they’re told to do, but test grades remain frustratingly low.

For educators this can be frustrating!

“They’re just not studying enough” I hear from countless teachers. “I’ve given them strategies for what to do to prepare for tests, but they’re just not doing it.” Or, “How are they supposed to do well on tests if they don’t do their homework? There’s nothing I can do to make them follow through.”

Some blame laziness. Some blame the contemporary world filled with distractions – social media, computer games, and more.

In fact, students often blame themselves, too. “I’m just lazy” I often hear them say. Or “I’m just not good at school.”
There are countless factors that contribute to students’ struggles with schooling, but the one I want to focus on in this report is one that I rarely hear talked about by educators. Of all the blind spots I shared in the last blog post, this is perhaps the biggest one of all –

**No one ever teaches students HOW to study!**

When I was a teacher I actually *thought* I was teaching students how to study. As a middle school world history teacher, I taught all kinds of crazy strategies for studying – my kiddos could be seen drawing pictures of vocabulary words, creating skits with their friends that included important facts that might be on the history test, creating flashcards and re-writing their notes.

My students knew how to prepare for *my tests*, but they usually couldn’t transfer those skills to other subject matter and classrooms.

When I became an academic life coach, I loved helping them identify their learning styles and then using this information to help them find fun, anti-boring study techniques that I hoped would be effective.

Clients certainly felt more confident about their test preparation, but as I watched them hone their study processes, something seemed missing. Students still seemed to be spending an *inordinate* amount of time studying, with results that remained lackluster, while grades on tests did not improve as fast as I’d hoped. This frustrated me to no end (and it frustrated my clients too!).
HOW I STUMBLED UPON THE ART OF INSPIRING STUDENTS TO STUDY STRATEGICALLY

In 2013 I attended a conference that changed my life – and started completely transforming my students’ ability to study more strategically...and land the grades they were hoping for.

As a result of what I learned at the conference, the 3-Step Study Cycle was born. I began experimenting on my clients, and I watched their eyes light up with understanding. We were able to make much more strategic, effective study plans because we made sure that they followed the Study Cycle. Grades started rising, and along with those grades, students’ confidence rose too.

Take Angela, for example. She came to me as a senior in high school who had always made C’s and D’s on tests. She’d been working with another academic coach who helped her come up with decent strategies, but never taught her the underlying mechanisms about how the brain works. I shared with her my Basic Brain Formula and 3-step Study Cycle, and she applied it to a test that she had the very next day. Voila! Her test scores went up by a whole letter grade on that test, and her studying on subsequent tests got exponentially more effective, too. Her mom commented that her grades this year are the best grades she’s ever gotten in school, and her confidence about going to college is increasing. Go Angela!!

The Study Cycle became, and remains, the centerpiece of my step-by-step system for learning more with less stress, which I call The Anti-Boring Approach to Powerful Studying™. The Study Cycle takes me about 5 minutes
to teach to my clients, and then we apply it to everything else we do in coaching – organizing our binders, taking powerful notes, designing quizzable study tools, making study plans, and battling procrastination.

I teach this system to students and I also train educators how to incorporate these lessons into their classrooms, tutoring, and coaching sessions.

The reports are coming in and it’s looking good – Angela is not an anomaly! Teens are rapidly transforming their ability to study effectively, sometimes after a single coaching session, as soon as they are taught the Anti-Boring Study Cycle and how to apply it to their own studying. Schools are starting to send their guidance counselors and teachers to my trainings to help them more effectively incorporate the Study Cycle into their classrooms and peer coaching programs.

So what’s the secret? What is this 3-Step Study Cycle that is so transformative? I’m going to share it with you now.

In the rest of this e-book we’ll explore:

- What it means to “study”
- What makes studying “strategic”
- What the Study Cycle is, and how to teach it
- How you can use the Study Cycle to help your students
- The 7 types of struggling students and which tools are best for each

Alright, let’s dive in.
DEFINING “STUDY”

*Please note: In the following section, “you” refers to the student.*

First, if we are going help you study more effectively and raise those test grades, we need to be in agreement about what the word “study” means, and how it differs from homework.

*Homework is an activity designed by the teacher to have you:*

- practice something you have just learned, or
- begin learning something that the teacher is going to build on the next day*

*Studying, on the other hand, is an activity designed by you, the student, with the purpose of:*

- practicing or reviewing the skills/content your teacher is teaching, or
- checking your own learning, to see how well you’ve mastered the skills/content, so that you’re ready for an assessment.

Although you are not in charge of the content or skills that are being taught, you are in charge of *how you choose to study* that content.

Distasteful as studying may be to many students, it’s one of the only places in many schools and universities during which *you the student are in charge of how YOU learn.* That’s actually pretty cool.
Rather than being a necessary evil, studying is the one opportunity you have to be your own teacher, in control of your own learning.
THE 3-STEP STUDY CYCLE: WHAT IT MEANS TO STUDY “STRATEGICALLY”

Did you know that most students study in the WRONG way?

In fact, many educators and parents inadvertently teach them to study in the wrong way. Talk about a sad waste of time.

The most common study technique amongst students world-wide is to re-read their textbook or their notes ... over and over again. This is inefficient, boring, bad for your brain and causes grades on tests to be whole letter grades lower than they would be if students studied in more brain-friendly ways.

When students understand brain science, and are taught what the brain needs in order to learn efficiently, they can plan their study time to be more effective and less time wasting.

This planning process is what I refer to when I recommend that you study “strategically.”

If you’re to make a strategic study plan, here’s the most important thing you need to know:

The single most effective learning strategy is the act of testing yourself!

Sounds boring, I know. But if you test yourself strategically (rather than waiting for teachers to do it for or to you), it's the most anti-boring way to make an “A” that I know!
Let’s break it down. The picture on this page (page 13) summarizes all the steps you need to follow to study strategically and make better grades with less stress.

Let’s take a tour of this graphic.

Start in the center. The *Anti-Boring™ Study Cycle* represents the three most important parts of the learning process, as revealed to us by brain scientists. I discovered that by presenting it as a 3-step cycle, my students understand the cycle better and are more easily able to apply it to their own studies.
The basket at the bottom represents all the knowledge and/or skills that students need in order to demonstrate mastery on the test.

The person at the top represents the learner and their BRAIN. Studying effectively means cycling through the following 3 steps:

1. First, you need to get the information FROM the basket of knowledge and skills INTO your brain. The brain scientists call this process “encoding.”

2. Secondly, you need to practice testing yourself, or showing yourself what you know and what you don’t know. The brain scientists call this process “retrieval.” It is imperative here that you test yourself from memory! Looking over your notes while you test yourself doesn’t count. Anything you prove you know leaves the study cycle for this particular study session; anything you don’t know goes back into the basket of knowledge and skills, so that you can...

3. ...re-encode it in a new way!! It is boring to do the same study strategy over and over again, and this is the anti-boring approach to powerful studying. It’s important to re-teach yourself the information in a way that is different than you originally learned it. This means that part of learning how to study strategically is having a “toolbox” of many, many learning strategies, so that if one doesn’t work, you can easily shift to a different one.

Speaking of encoding information in new ways, here is a video that I made that summarizes everything you just read. I should walk my talk after all, don’t you agree? So if you’re someone who learns better by seeing and hearing, here you go:
YouTube - The Anti-Boring Study Cycle

This video, by the way, is taken straight out of my online course *The Anti-Boring Approach to Powerful Studying™*. I’m excited to be able to give you this little piece of the course for free.

In summary, then:

- The Study Cycle reminds students that there is more to learning than just passively reading and re-reading your notes and the textbook.
- The act of testing yourself, and forcing yourself to prove what you know and don’t know, is crucial to learning.
- However, don’t stop there! Once you have proof of what you don’t know, then it’s your responsibility to figure out how to teach it to yourself in a new way.
The learning process is complete when you’ve developed the habit – are fluent, even – of strategically cycling through these 3 stages over and over until you have proof that you’ve learned it.

When students fully internalize the 3-Step Study Cycle, their confidence and their grades go up, and their testing anxiety and confusion go down. It’s inspiring to watch.
HOW TO USE THE STUDY CYCLE TO HELP YOUR STUDENTS?

Hopefully by now, you’ve got a good sense of the Study Cycle and why it is such a powerful model for teaching students to study strategically.

So, what do you DO with it?! That all depends on if you are a teacher, a tutor, or a coach.

**If you are a classroom teacher:** I recommend teaching your students The Study Cycle at the beginning of every semester. It only takes about 5-minutes to deliver the “mini-lecture” that I modeled in the video above. You can then have them use the Study Cycle to design their own study processes every time you’re ready for another test.

**If you are a tutor:** In my experience, many tutors study alongside students when tests are on the horizon. Instead, what if you teach your clients the Study Cycle, and then ask them which side they need the most help with? Do they need you to help them practice retrieval to identify what they know or don’t know? Or perhaps you want them to come to their sessions with you having already practiced retrieval, so that the two of you can practice encoding what they don’t know in new ways!

**If you are an academic coach:** Teach your clients the Study Cycle at the very beginning of the year, and then use it to brainstorm study plans throughout your work with this client. As soon as you find out another test is on the horizon ask them, “How are you going to study for that test? Apply the Study Cycle.” Make sure you have them write those plans down in their planners!
ONCE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE STUDY CYCLE, WHAT’S NEXT?

One word of warning: understanding the Study Cycle is just the first step on the journey to learning to study strategically.

The next step is to make sure that students have a wide and varied toolkit of strategies to use when they apply the Study Cycle to their real lives.

The Study Cycle is a theory – a roadmap or a blueprint. Yes, it’s important to understand the importance of testing yourself to see what you do and don’t know.

But how do you do that? What are the specific tools that students need to be able to test themselves regularly? How can we provide them with enough tools so that they always have multiple choices, and boredom is never an excuse?

I’d like to use the next section of this report to introduce you to the tools that I teach as a part of The Anti-Boring Approach to Powerful Studying (the online course designed for students) and The Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically (the online course designed for teachers, tutors and coaches).

In order to understand the tools that help students apply The Study Cycle in their real lives, let’s take another look at that graphic I shared earlier (on page 13), and continue our tour.

If you look back at that graphic, you’ll see that the Study Cycle is in the center of the page. All around it are pictures that represent the tools students need to expertly apply the Study Cycle in lots of different learning contexts.
In my online course the *Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically*, I go into much more detail about how to teach these tools to your students.

Here’s an overview. Please refer to the graphic on page 13 as we continue our tour.

Tools to Study Actively.

*From the Study Cycle, look left. There you will find the Study Senses. The Study Senses are crucial in helping you figure out how to encode information in new ways.*

These are the four most effective ways that the brain likes to encode information – seeing, hearing, talking, and moving.

In my courses, I teach educators and students how to use the Study Senses in different creative combinations, so that students (and teachers, tutors and coaches, too) have an unlimited number of ways to encode what they’re learning.

In fact, I provide over 20+ concrete encoding strategies that are fun, interesting and effective (including the world’s most hilarious method for using flashcards!).

Tools to Take Powerful Notes.
Follow the yellow-dotted line up from the Study Senses, and you’ll discover the next necessary skill in learning how to study strategically – taking powerful notes.

Forget Cornell notes and Roman numeral outlines. Although those are decent strategies, I’ve found that students need even simpler guidelines for taking the kinds of notes that help them learn key points.

Instead in the *Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically* I teach a concept called “Hone It” notes, and I provide 8+ “Hone It” strategies so that students have a plethora of choices about how they take notes.

More choices equal more ways to stave off boredom when studying, and that is a good thing!

**Tools to Create Quizzable Study Tools.**

Now it’s time to follow the yellow-dotted line over to the right side of the page. Now we are on the retrieval side of the Study Cycle.

Once students have encoded the information in a new way by honing their notes and applying the Study Senses, now it’s time to practice retrieval.

It’s good for students to equip themselves with many different ways to test themselves, so that they don’t get too bored by doing it one way all the time.
In the *Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically*, I provide you with over 10+ ways that students can create quizzable study tools. Some of them are standard (flashcards!) but some will be surprising (there’s a fun memorization trick I got from studying Japanese students, in fact).

**Tools to Make Rock Solid Study Plans.**

*Follow the yellow-dotted line down to the next picture. It’s here where we look at turning all these incredible tools into effective study plans.*

Brain science shows something that teachers have understood for decades -- studying is even more effective if you can spread it out over time.

But it’s hard to spread out your learning if you’re flying by the seat of your pants and studying last minute.

In the *Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically*, I teach a clear formula for planning for exams. It takes all the guess work out of preparing for tests.

If you teach students this formula and have students apply it along with the Study Cycle, you’ll be amazed how quickly their grades improve on their tests.
Tools to Overcome Procrastination.

Follow the yellow-dotted line down one more time.

Just because a student has made a good study plan doesn’t mean they have the skills to actually follow their plan!

Since students are human, they’re likely to procrastinate! No study plan is going to be effective if students don’t follow it, after all. That’s why students need a great set of tools for knowing how to overcome procrastination.

In the *Art of Inspiring Students to Study Strategically* I teach a 3-part system for overcoming procrastination that I call *Tools, Team and Routine*. I also teach a set of specific routines that students can implement immediately to help them get started on their homework and studying as soon as they get home every day.

(It might not surprise you to know that most of my clients complain of difficulty initiating work when they are alone at home; work initiation is a huge bugaboo for all teens, both the neurotypical teens and the ones with learning differences).

In Summary...
In order to inspire students to study strategically, they first need to understand the 3-Step Study Cycle and learn to apply it in a number of different learning contexts.

Once they understand this basic learning cycle, they then need to expand their toolkit of strategies for how to encode and retrieve information.

Different learning contexts will require different strategies, and the more choices students have, the more strategic they can be about which tools to apply in which contexts.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE NEXT
ART OF INSPIRING STUDENTS TO STUDY
STRATEGICALLY

Every Spring Semester I bring together an incredible cohort of smart, creative, passionate educators. Together we explore my “secret formula” for helping scattered students stress less and study smarter.

It’s a 5-week course in which you will learn:

1. A simple system that turns disorganized students into expert time managers, and test takers
2. Five academic skills that every student should master, and how to teach them so they stick for good
3. Three transformative conversations that turn teens into test taking powerhouses, and how to weave those conversations repeatedly into your ongoing work with students until they totally get it
4. How to ask empowering questions that inspire students to think deeply about their study skills and time management habits and take action immediately
5. 30+ concrete tools to have in your back pocket to help teens tackle procrastination, disorganization, weak note-taking, and haphazard study skills

The course includes:

- Five training calls introducing you to the concrete skills teens need to be rockstar students
- Entire six module Anti-Boring Approach to Powerful Studying™ online course
- Online portal where training materials and call recordings can be accessed for two years
- Private Facebook community in which to collaborate with cohort members and, for the duration of the training, get support directly from Gretchen
- A printable graphic of The Study Cycle™ and The Study Senses™ to use with students
- Video excerpts from sessions with teens, to see coaching conversations & the concrete Anti-Boring™ tools in action
BONUS: WHICH TOOLS ARE BEST FOR WHICH STRUGGLING STUDENTS?

As an academic life coach, how do I make sure that I don’t overwhelm students with too many strategies? In the previous pages, I’ve discussed the importance of giving students a lot of choices for creative study strategies.

However, it’s also true that it can be hard for a student to take action if they have too many choices for what to do.

In my 1000+ hours in coaching sessions with students, I have noticed that different students suffer in their own unique ways. This means that different students benefit from different entry points into the Anti-Boring tools.

The Study Cycle and the other Anti-Boring Approach tools are designed to be flexible, to meet students where they are and weave in the various skills as they are ready.

Here are the 7 types of struggling students I’ve observed in my years as a coach:

- The Stressed-Out Perfectionist
- The Fade Away Student
- The Brilliant but Bored Student
- The Meh Student
- The Disorganized Student
- The Artist
• The Athlete

Each of these students has their own unique struggles and study blind spots. I’ve also observed that each of them is best served by learning the Anti-Boring tools in a unique order.

Whether or not you choose to equip yourself with my tools for teaching students to study strategically, I’m hoping you’ll find this outline helpful in learning how to support the struggling students you know and love.

**TYPE 1: THE STRESSED-OUT PERFECTIONIST**

Stressed out with no life outside of school, this student is overly anxious about performing well. They are overwhelmed with everything they think they need to do, and tend to overdo their assignments. This student is a perfectionist, and often procrastinates because the bar has been raised so high that it’s difficult to get started with work.

**Study Blind Spots:**

- This student is great at finding study tasks that *feel* productive but are *inefficient*.
- All their time goes to reading and re-reading the textbook, or taking detailed notes over and over again.
- Although they are good at quizzing themselves (their quizlet flashcard decks are always up to date!), they are not strategic about *how* they practice retrieval.
• They also have a dearth of interesting tools for how to encode in a new way.

**Study Solutions:**

• This student needs to understand how to use all of their senses when studying.

• They need a clear method for how to tell if they are overusing one method of studying, and a bigger toolbox of quizzable study tools so that they can have more variety in their study process.

• This student is the one I’ve seen integrate the Anti-Boring Approach tools the fastest!

• Try starting with *The Study Cycle (Module 1) and Quizzable Study Tools (Module 5)* from *The Anti-Boring Approach™*. If your Stressed-Out Perfectionist is a compulsive note-taker, you might want to start with Powerful Notetaking (Module 4) before you do either of these.

**TYPE 2: THE FADE AWAY STUDENT**

Starts strong but then motivation goes down and procrastination goes up. Most students are this type, I’ve discovered. They know that in the past they might not have put the most effort into school, and they think that this school year will be different. They start totally strong and meaning well, but discover that doing well takes more effort than they’re willing to give (often because they’re
not making smart choices about where to put in effort) and they lose hope part way through the semester.

**Study Blind Spots:**

- These students tend to struggle on tests and assessments because they haven’t learned how to sustain their attention on studying outside of class.
- This student is good at the “encoding” part of the Study Cycle.
- They pay attention in class, and do their best to follow the teacher’s instructions to the T. However, when it comes to studying they feel lost.
- At the beginning of the year, they are diligent about re-reading their notes or the textbook, but this quickly becomes more effort than they desire.

**Study Solutions:**

- This student needs to have a solid understanding of the brain theory behind the Study Cycle.
- They then need to be tested on it repeatedly throughout the semester so that their knowledge can’t “fade away.”
- This student also needs consistent support thinking through how to apply the Study Cycle to the unique needs of their different classes.
- With practice at all three parts of the Study Cycle, this student will eventually become self-sufficient, and will be able to sustain their enthusiasm for much longer into the semester.
• Start with The Study Cycle (Module 1) + Train the Brain (Module 2)* in The Anti-Boring Approach™.

TYPE 3: BRILLIANT BUT BORED STUDENT

This is the type of student for whom learning in high school comes easily. They often don’t need to study for tests much, and still do well. They are often very verbal learners, and can remember readings and classroom discussions easily. They’re often bored by school and all the “busy work” that teachers assign, and rarely feel challenged.

Study Blind Spots:

• This student is often not motivated to learn to study in high school, because they simply don’t need to in order to perform well.

• Also, they often have an underdeveloped ability to sustain their attention on mentally taxing tasks, because school has come easily to them for so long.

• This student often flounders the minute they get to college because they’ve never had to develop strategies for managing time or learning difficult things.

• Often, this type of student is surprised by the college workload, and many fail their classes first semester.

Study Solution:
This student often needs to “hit bottom” in order to realize that they need some skills.

However, once they become motivated to learn, they will understand and internalize the Study Cycle very quickly.

They will also need support with time management, because they are not used to working hard and putting “grit” into their school work.

They will need support with remembering to apply the Study Cycle into their time management routines.

Start by teaching The Study Cycle (Module 1) plus Anti-Procrastination Tools (Module 7) of *The Anti-Boring Approach™*. 

**TYPE 4: THE “MEH” STUDENT**

This type of student plods along just fine. The effort they put into their school work is mediocre, and their grades are decent but not great. This is the student who often flies under the radar in most classrooms, and blends into the background.

**Study Blind Spots:**

- This student is more focused on following the teacher’s directions as efficiently as possible.
- Because their grades are ok, they’re not motivated to put in additional work.
• They have not found an inner compass that helps them connect their academic performance to their long-term goals.

• Also, they rely on teacher feedback to tell them whether their work is of high quality or not, and lack the tools to assess this for themselves.

**Study Solutions:**

• This student definitely benefits from learning more about the “retrieval” and “encode in a new way” parts of the Study Cycle.

• Teaching this student how to use a variety of quizzable study tools helps them better assess the quality of their study strategies.

• Also, teaching them to encode in a new way helps them get more excited about school, because they learn to find and apply learning strategies that are actually interesting to them.

• Start with teaching the Study Cycle (Module 1) + Quizzable Study Tools (Module 5).

**TYPE 5: THE DISORGANIZED STUDENT**

This student may or may not perform well on tests and assessments. What is certain, though, is they lose a great deal of points on overall grades because work doesn’t get turned in, is incomplete, or lost. Their backpacks and lockers are disasters, with crumpled papers that are rarely filed in an easy to find place. They also tend to have difficulty with time management. This is the kid with clear executive function difficulty.
Study Blind Spots:

- This student may or may not perform well on tests and assessments.
- One thing is clear – they have difficulty keeping track of assignments and resources that might serve as good study tools when it’s time to prep for tests.

Study Solutions:

- This student benefits from getting a clear organization system down.
- The best organization systems for students (and the one that I teach in *The Anti-Boring Approach™*) require that they keep the final exam in mind as they file papers and resources.
- Start with teaching Anti-Procrastination + Organizing Tools (Module 7) in *The Anti-Boring Approach™*.

TYPE 6: THE ARTIST

This type of student has a very clear direction for their lives – the want to be a singer, painter, actor, writer, or artist of some type. Many of my clients are artists who see no point in school because they already know that they’d like to pursue their art as their profession.

Study Blind Spots:

- These students tend to have very active extracurricular lives, and barely have time for all their homework, much less studying.
• Also, after being exposed to the idea that studying can involve a lot of creativity, they often go overboard on designing creative study processes, and forget to pay attention to how effective their study process is.

**Study Solutions:**

• This student often gets super jazzed when they realize that studying can be a creative process, and are often more motivated to study when they realize they can apply their art to the process.

• However, they also benefit from mastering several types of Quizzable Study Tools, which help keep them grounded when they’re tempted to go overboard with the creativity.

• These tools also help provide concrete ways to study during rehearsals and in small gaps of time available to them between rehearsals, on commutes, etc.

• Start with Teaching the Study Cycle (Module 1) + the Study Senses (Module 2) in *The Anti-Boring Approach™*.

**TYPE 7: THE ATHLETE**
The struggling student who is an athlete is often a very physical person who is more engaged when he or she is moving than sitting in seats. They have a difficult time paying attention in class, and they also have a difficult time caring about their academics. Especially during their sports season, they also have very little time to devote to their studies because of practices and games.
Study Blind Spots:

- This student often has the same blind spots as the “meh” student above.
- Usually they’re performing just well enough that they don’t need to hone their skills.
- Many assume that their sports participation will help get them into college, and so they don’t worry too much about improving their grades.
- These students tend to study at the last minute, and cram their school work into breaks between practice and games.

Study Solutions:

- Because the Athlete is prone to appreciate sports metaphors, they are sometimes motivated by thinking about the brain as a muscle that needs to be exercised, and the Study Cycle as an example of an interval training program.
- Much like the Fade Away student, the Athlete needs to begin by understanding the study cycle and the brain training.
- Start with teaching The Study Cycle + the Study Senses from The Anti-Boring Approach™ (with an emphasis on the “moving and manipulating” sense).
A FINAL NOTE ABOUT THESE 7 TYPES OF STUDENTS:

As you were reading through all these types, you probably thought to yourself, “These are awfully simplistic summaries.”

If you thought that, then yes! What a clever reader you are. They are simplistic. Although I have a few students who fit one of these types exactly, what’s more likely is that each struggling student is an amalgam of several of these types.

Nonetheless, I stand by overall structure of the types.

When I speak to PTA’s and student assemblies, I find that students (and parents, too) enjoy thinking through which “type” they are. It helps their problems feel less “strange” and more “normal.” Also, for educators it might help you hone in faster to finding a starting point in helping your struggling student.

The name of the game, though, is experimentation. I stand by all the tools I teach. However, different students will be motivated to start learning different tools. So be open to letting your students’ curiosity lead the direction you go! Experiment! Have fun!
PLEASE DON’T BE A STRANGER! CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR IDEAS.

Please email me if you have any questions or observations after reading this book! gretchen@gretchenwegner.com is a great place to find me.

Also, if you found your way to this e-book, that means that you are also on my email list. You’ll be getting a weekly video with a study (or time management) strategy inspired by my work with clients. You can always respond to that email if you have something specific to discuss with me.

And finally, my website has a great deal of information on it:

- Click here for more information about my training courses for educators.
- Click here for more information about my business training for academic coaches.

I’m looking forward to connecting with you soon!

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