



Mastery Teaching Workshop with John D. Mays

Lesson 1: The Cram- Pass-Forget Cycle and Its Consequences (Pt. 1)

Outline:

What is mastery, and why do we need it?

The Cram-Pass-Forget Cycle

- Students cram for tests, pass them, and then forget what they crammed in three weeks.
- They complete a year of study with little to show for it.
- Teachers resort to creating experiences, but these do not result in achievement of desired learning outcomes.
 - Students take memories of excitement with them.
- This cycle is primarily promoted by teachers; administrators also contribute.
- We cannot blame the students-although teachers often do. The students follow our lead.

Mastery and Long Term Retention

- We must design our teaching methods for mastery and long term retention.
- When you are voluntarily in a course of study you study it, rehearse it, and talk about it to your friends. The information is internalized.

Consequences

- Lack of achievement and incompetence.
- Classes are perceived as exercises in futility.
- Students are bored tourists.