Request to Retest / Revise

Instructional Strategy – What is it?

Students can request to retake a test or revise work by completing a form. The form requires students to (1) reflect on their performance and learning strategies and (2) show evidence of relearning material. The goal is to encourage all students to master the content taught in your class and to help students discover better learning strategies.

Why does it work?

Providing students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and to develop better learning strategies can promote a growth mindset climate in your classroom. It also reinforces how continued effort and persistence can help students succeed.

How to do it?

1. *Create the form and plan your routine.* Create your form by determining what activities/study strategies you'd recommend to your students to demonstrate re-learning the material, how many activities/study strategies you will require students to show, and how long students will have to complete the form after a test or assignment. Consider how you will fit the additional grading into your workflow (e.g., do you have access to Teaching Assistants or graders who can help with grading?).

2. *Introduce the routine to students.* Around the time of the first major test or assignment, introduce the request forms to students. Explain the form to your students, particularly how it reinforces learning from mistakes and trying additional learning strategies.

3. *Coach students on the form.*
    a. Students might need prompting to initiate this process. Consider having quick check-ins with students after the first test/assignment to encourage them to try the process.
    b. Prepare specific suggestions of what students can work on to re-learn and improve, and offer specific feedback on whether students are getting the most out of the form

4. *Reflect on your own success using the form.* Track which students complete forms and how much their score improves on the redo in your gradebook. Also consider:
    a. How many students are using the form?
    b. Are all the students that *need* to retake using the form?
    c. Are there better activities/learning strategies to add to the form? Are there activities/learning strategies that you should remove?
    d. Are there common aspects about the form that are confusing students?
    e. Are they improving their scores as much as you would like?

Examples

The following pages show some example forms of how two teachers have used this strategy in their classrooms.

Motivate Lab

An Example from Civics:

REQUEST TO RETEST

The Basics:
Name_____

Date _____ Period _____

Unit/Topic to Retest _____

Reflect:
What was my previous score? _____

Why? _____
_____
_____

What topics or vocabulary was I confused about?_____
_____
_____

Three Activities I Did to Improve My Understanding:
Checkmark what 3 things you did and provide proof of your activities if required

_____ **Flashcards:** create 10 or more flashcards for things you are confused about.
        Attach to this paper and study them

_____ **Quizlet:** study and take a 15 question practice test
        Name of quizlet _____ score: _____

_____ **Review Game:** play a related review game on the class website
        Name of game _____ score: _____

_____ **Study Guide:** study your study guide with someone for at least 10 min.
        Signature of study partner: _____

_____ **Unit Organizer:** review your unit organizer. Pick 2 pages/topics to complete
        the self-test questions (at the bottom of each page). *Attach to this paper.*

Request:
When would you like to retest (must be within 2 weeks of the original test date)? _____

I request the opportunity to retest this concept or skill. I have worked hard to improve my understanding of this concept.

Signed: _____

Motivate Lab

An Example from Math:

REQUEST TO RETEST

Name: _____   Date: _____   Core: _____

Content / Skills to Retest: _____

Reflect

What was your previous score? _____   New Score _____

Describe your mistakes or misunderstandings.
    [Were there words you didn't know? Did you make a small math mistake? Did
    the questions not make sense? Did you guess? Were you rushed for time?
    etc.]

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Choose two of the review activities below to help you review for your revisions.

1.   _____   Study my notes on the content with a friend or parent
                Signature of study buddy _____
2.   _____   Make at least five flashcards about the content to help you study.
                Attach to this paper as proof
3.   _____   Copy your notes, rewriting definitions and examples is a great way to learn
                Attach the copied notes to this paper as proof
4.   _____   Ask your teacher for extra practice to do at home
                Attach completed extra practice

When would you like to complete a retest? _____

Stuff to Attach: Previous test, proof of your two review activities

Request
I request the opportunity to retest. I have worked hard to improve my
understanding of this concept.

                Signature: _____