



**BALL STATE
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HB 211



The Feynman Technique

A STUDY TOOL

If you're looking for a different way to test your knowledge on a particular subject, look no further! Developed by Nobel Prize recipient Richard Feynman, this technique makes you try to explain concepts and ideas in basic terms. Whether you try to teach your friend, dog, or even an inanimate object, you have to do your best to verbally explain what you are learning in a way that someone who has never heard of it could comprehend.

Step 1 – Take a piece of paper and write the name of the concept on top

Step 2 – Explain the concept in simple language

Step 3 – If you were unsure of any parts during your explanation or failed to recall some parts, make sure you identify them. This means you have not fully grasped those specifics and you will need to go back to the source material

Step 4 – Go back and review your explanation. Have you used any complex terms that someone may not understand? If so, try and break those down to simpler language.

Step 5 – With everything written down try teaching it verbally without looking at your notes and see how well you did!

***TIP** – Keep asking yourself “Why?” throughout the process of writing down your explanation. **Why** does this work? **Why** does it make sense?

For a simple video explanation on the Feynman Technique, please watch this [video](#) on Youtube by Thomas Frank