



Learning Lifeline

A LETTER ABOUT LEARNING FROM ESTHER WILKISON

It happened. Two boys who had been struggling all year to pass their science tests passed the last test with flying colors. When their teacher asked them what made the difference, they told her how—when she had given them team-time for learning—a fellow student had helped them study.

This story shows success on three levels:

1. Two struggling students learned they can succeed on a test.
2. The teacher learned that a helpful peer tutor can make a tremendous difference in student learning.
3. The peer tutor learned that his ability to help others succeed indicates he may have a future in helping others. He may not come to that conclusion on his own, but his teacher plans to take advantage of this prime discipleship moment.

How inspiring is that!?

As your students prepare for end-of-year tests, here's my favorite strategy to make the best use of study time: have your students write the test.

The very act of looking at the textbook and notes from a test-maker point of view can help students see things they may not normally think about when they study. If there are lists of things like names of inventors, your students may realize that matching names with inventions would make a good section of questions.

Writing the test can be helpful even if your student is working alone at home. However, there is a tremendous benefit to writing the test together. A parent and child can work together to design a test or, if you have multiple students, have them work in teams.

I used to have my students write one test question paper for each team so one could be looking at notes and the book while the other one wrote out the questions. For each question, have students include the answer and the page in the book or place in the notes where they found the answer. It may help to have students come up with a specific number of questions for each area of the content.

The test-writing process may reveal areas where students don't understand the material. Finding this out ahead of time allows you to clear up misunderstandings before the actual test.

Students may not come up with all the questions you want to ask on a test, but they'll love it when they find at least a few of their questions as they take the test.

If your students have never tried writing a test before, their first attempt may not produce a lot of quality questions you can use. However, it will still provide a great team-learning activity to keep them studying the content. Who knows—you may find this idea so successful that you use this for every test you give next year.



Learning Lifeline

A LETTER ABOUT LEARNING FROM ESTHER WILKISON

Note: I wouldn't have this success story to share if I had not heard from one of our *Lifeline* readers. I would love to hear from you. As you look back on this past school year—What has been working? What has not worked? What are your greatest pain points when it comes to your needs and the needs of those you influence?

Make sure you don't miss next week's *Lifeline*. It will be our final one before summer break and we have some exciting news to announce.