
The Pedagogy of Tutoring

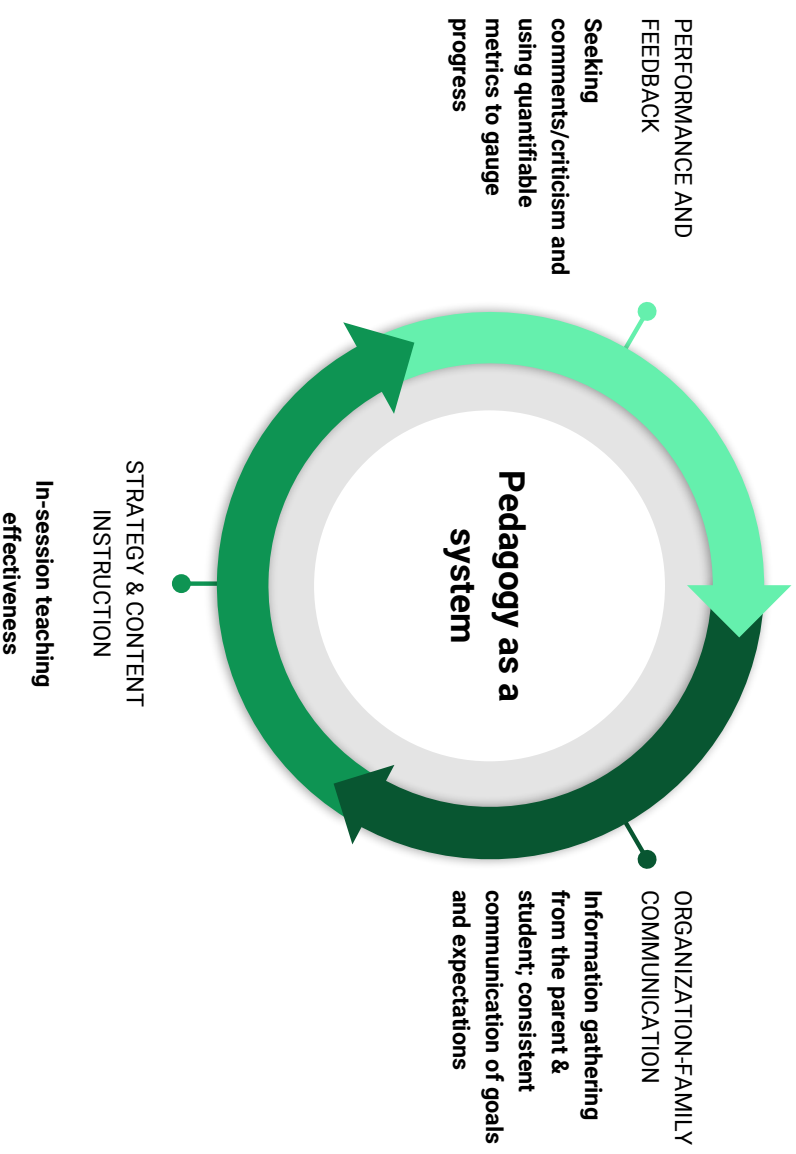
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An Anecdote

This Represents Multiple Points of Failure

- Failure to properly vet student
 - Failure of tutor to react during session
 - Failure of organization-parent-tutor communication
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Pedagogy Is Multifaceted



Instructional Pedagogy

Goal

Teach students strategies and content that will result in
ACT & SAT score increases

Common Modes of Tutoring, Common Problems

- Problem solving and reviewing solutions
 - Bigger picture gets lost
 - Topic-specific lesson → topic-specific quiz → review
 - Long-term retention deemphasized
 - Full-length practice exams and review of incorrect answers
 - Lacks focus; bypasses “silent” issues
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Good Tutoring Is Difficult

- One-way showing and telling doesn't cut it
 - Topics and questions presented in isolation can be minimally effective
 - Time constraints limit the “sinking in” process
 - 1-3 hours per week tutoring
 - 2-4 hours of homework
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What Makes Tutoring More Effective?

- Things we practice: reactive thinking
 - Repetition
 - Duration
 - Independent work
 - Things many tutors don't practice: proactive and novel thinking
 - Prompting
 - Branching out
 - Adjusting ways of thinking
 - Presenting different modes/media
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Prompting

Encouraging a two-way session

Student is made to describe what's going on

Student is made to think *before* leaning on the answer choices

Student is made to justify answers; we don't take their word for it

Focus on the what the question itself reveals

Anticipation, especially in Reading

Never underestimate the frequency of divine intervention

Branching Out

The hypotheticals are entertained

- How would altering one thing change the problem?
- Could it have gone in other directions?
- Examples from different tests to show variety

Broadly applicable strategies...let student questions expand depth, even if there's limited breadth

48. The expression $\frac{2b+c}{b-2c}$ is undefined whenever $b = ?$

- F. $-2c$
- G. $-\frac{1}{2}c$
- H. 0
- J. $\frac{1}{2}c$
- K. $2c$

46. As x continually increases in value without bound, the value of $\frac{x}{x+3}$ most closely approaches:

- F. 0
- G. $\frac{1}{3}$
- H. 1
- J. 3
- K. ∞

50. In the standard (x,y) coordinate plane, when $a \neq 0$ and $b \neq 0$, the graph of $f(x) = \frac{2x+b}{x+a}$ has a *horizontal* asymptote at:

- F. $y = 2$
- G. $y = a$
- H. $y = -a$
- J. $y = -\frac{b}{2}$
- K. $y = \frac{b}{a}$

Adjusting Ways of Thinking

There's more than just the question

- Focusing on answer choice “giveaways” and repetitive structures
- Explicitly warning about common pitfalls
- Shortening questions if time-limited

designer also needs careful educational preparation.

[6] Finally, because a designer should understand the business aspects of the video game industry, such as budgeting and marketing, you may want to consider taking some business courses. [7] Although demanding and deadline driven, **43** video game design can be a

lucrative and rewarding field for people who love gaming

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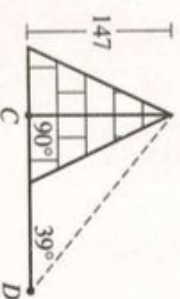
- A) NO CHANGE
- B) the choice of video game design
- C) you should choose video game design because it
- D) choosing to design video games

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To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 5 should be

34. Which of the following expressions is equal to the length, in meters, of \overline{DC} ?

- F. $147 \sin 39^\circ$
- G. $147 \tan 39^\circ$
- H. $\frac{147}{\cos 39^\circ}$
- J. $\frac{147}{\sin 39^\circ}$
- K. $\frac{147}{\tan 39^\circ}$



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Switching Media

Provides opportunity to introduce novelty into the “normal” session style

Simple is best

Software can supplement assignments

Prevent things from going stale

Easily measurable progress, extra content, something other than bookwork

Communication

Goal

No one should ever be surprised

The Issue of Disconnection

- Disengaged parents = recipe for failure
 - Disconnection means no relationship means less investment
 - Lack of information-sharing leaves too much to chance
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Common Sense Actions

- Engage immediately with parent and student together
 - Student input needs to be given priority from lead stage on
 - What are the student's goals?
 - Get a student email; always copy parent on communications
 - Regular updates and conversations driven by tutor, not prompted by parent
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We're Tutoring the Parents Too

- Orderly, timely presentation of information & resources suggests authority of tutor/organization
 - Parents may not know the extent of their children's shortcomings
 - Parents may not understand the disconnect between school and the ACT/SAT
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Metrics & Feedback

Goal

Show more than just numbers going up

Yes, Increasing Scores Is Key

- Tutoring, at root, is very transactional
 - Homework & practice test performance are obviously great indicators
 - But there's more to performance measuring...
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The X-Factors of Pedagogy

- Witnessing personal growth of student
 - Highlight responsibility, responsiveness, respect, maturity
 - Details of *how* the numbers are increasing are welcome
 - The process, after all, isn't magic
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Pedagogy is a System

From lead intake to test results,
the delivery of tutoring should be
finely honed.

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Thank you!

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