



# NVTutoring Quarterly

Going beyond tutoring to help our clients.

nvtutoring.com

Spring 2007

## Artificial Memory and Memory Mapping

*Professional, Courteous,  
In-Home Service  
Since 1995*

*Elementary - College*

"I hate studying!" How many of us have heard these words from our students at every level? Isn't it true that many of us think of studying as largely hours of drudgery pouring over notes and books? Two very powerful techniques (or tools) can help cut those hours to literally minutes. It is true and it is done relatively easily.

The two tools are artificial memory and the method of loci, or memory mapping. Artificial memory is a recollection that is not of a natural construct. That is to say, one creates it rather than experiences it. The more dramatic or odd the artificial memory is the better, because it is more easily recalled. Memory mapping is the placing of information at points on a map. Try it yourself.

Here is how:

1. Take the first ten presidents and create funny and elaborate images for each of their names, for example, a hare jumping on the sun for Harrison or a van that is burning for Van Buren.
2. Pick any room in your home to use as a map and create points on the furniture for placing the images.
3. Place the images you created at these points in order.
4. That is it!

Now try to recall the first ten presidents by walking through your mind's room, remembering the artificial images. I bet you have them or are very close to having them all in your first try. It takes a little bit of practice, but you will get it.

**When you are working with your students, be creative!** Allow them to come up with some of the images. Show them how to do this, and with a little bit of practice they will be successful with these tools too.

By Matt Hassan, NVTs Tutor

### On the back:

- [Helpful Web Sites](#)
- [Tutoring: A Personal Story](#)

## NVTS News:

- Our new Administrative Assistant, Tiffany Thompson, has been on the job for several months and is a wonderful asset to NVTS. Tiffany is a student at NVCC. She plans to major in elementary education and child psychology. If you have not called to say "hello" to Tiffany, please call her.
- Dr. Perrino was awarded the 2006 Arlington School Administrators Civic Award for his volunteer work and public service to the students and staff of the Arlington Public Schools.
- Dr. Perrino's article "Key Points to Hiring a Tutor" which had been previously published in Family Magazine, was featured in noted financial planner Ric Edelman's newsletter, "Inside Personal Finance", in the November 2006 issue.
- Dr. Perrino was a guest lecturer at the James Madison University Institute for Technical and Scientific Communication on November 14, 2006. He spoke to students and faculty on the topic "How to Start Your Own Business". Subsequently, Dr. Perrino's latest publication on this topic was featured in "Bytes and Pieces", the newsletter of the Institute for Technical and Scientific Communication. To read Dr. Perrino's article, visit us at [www.nvtutoring.com](http://www.nvtutoring.com).
- Rachel Fisher, NVTS tutor, recently received the **USAA (U.S. Achievement Academy) National Collegiate Award**. Rachel was nominated by one of her professors from a graduate education course she completed last Fall. Rachel is currently taking classes part-time so she can become certified to teach in a public school. Congratulations Rachel on this noteworthy award!

### Spring Test Dates:

#### SAT and Subject Tests:

- March 10, 2007
- May 5, 2007
- June 2, 2007

#### ACT:

- February 10, 2007
- April 14, 2007
- June 9, 2007



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## Helpful Internet Sites:

Our tutors often forward interesting internet sites to us. The following are some of the more interesting sites we have surveyed:

**Spanish:** <http://www.studyspanish.com/>  
<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/>  
Courtesy of Gina Boller, NVTS Tutor

**PBS Teachers Web site:** [www.pbs.org/teachers/](http://www.pbs.org/teachers/)

The site serves as a starting point for PBS's educational resources for teachers from pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The site's search engine helps educators find streaming video of PBS television programs and other multimedia features, in addition to thousands of downloadable lesson plans correlated to state and national standards and blogs on educational technology.

The lesson plans, classroom activities and interactive features are organized by subject, grade level and curriculum topic. Other highlights include dedicated areas for early childhood educators, librarians and technology coordinators; articles written by classroom teachers and education experts; professional development opportunities from the PBS Teacher-Line; and a section for teachers to shop for PBS videos.  
Courtesy of Devon Tutak, NVTS Tutor

**Math:** <http://www.purplemath.com>

Purplemath is an algebra site which starts with some pre-algebra material and moves onward to advanced topics. It is more extensive than intensive in that it covers many topics but with an example or two rather than many examples. It has quizzes and worksheets and links to other sites. It is an excellent reference.—Courtesy of Jeanne Cary, NVTS Tutor

## Personal Story: Life is Better When It is Shared with Children, By Kathleen Delgado, NVTS Tutor

I want to share my experience meeting two delightful young ladies I tutored through NVTS. They are Chloé and Abigail. When I met nine-year old Chloé she was fluent in French and English, but her mom wanted her daughter to learn French grammar and usage from an experienced teacher. I started her with French in Action, the textbook I use at Georgetown University. She was thrilled to be doing college work and my GU students were amused and impressed to see this little girl reading with flawless pronunciation and understanding. Chloé is very outgoing and wasn't shy reading aloud, answering questions or telling stories about her vacation.

Abigail is a sophomore and a ballet student. We saw her in "Footloose" at the Little Theater of Alexandria in January and she really stole the show as Ariel. Abigail and I are studying World History and enjoy discussing early civilizations and the main events that shaped our world.

I forget how young she is and that she was just a baby when the Berlin Wall came down. I told her we had to practice for air raid attacks, diving under our elementary school desks. Having a student like Abigail helps me see how young people live in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century so I won't be completely clueless!

So, I can happily conclude that knowing these two exceptional girls has enriched my life and I will remember them always. It's true that the teacher learns as much from her students as they

learn from her. I teach ESOL in evening classes sponsored by the Fairfax County Adult and Community Education program. These hard-working immigrants come to class at night to improve their English and they share their experiences from their home countries. Working with Abigail and Chloé helps me understand our educational system and how it has changed since I was their age and this gives me much hope for the future. I thank the people with NVTS for giving me this great opportunity.

