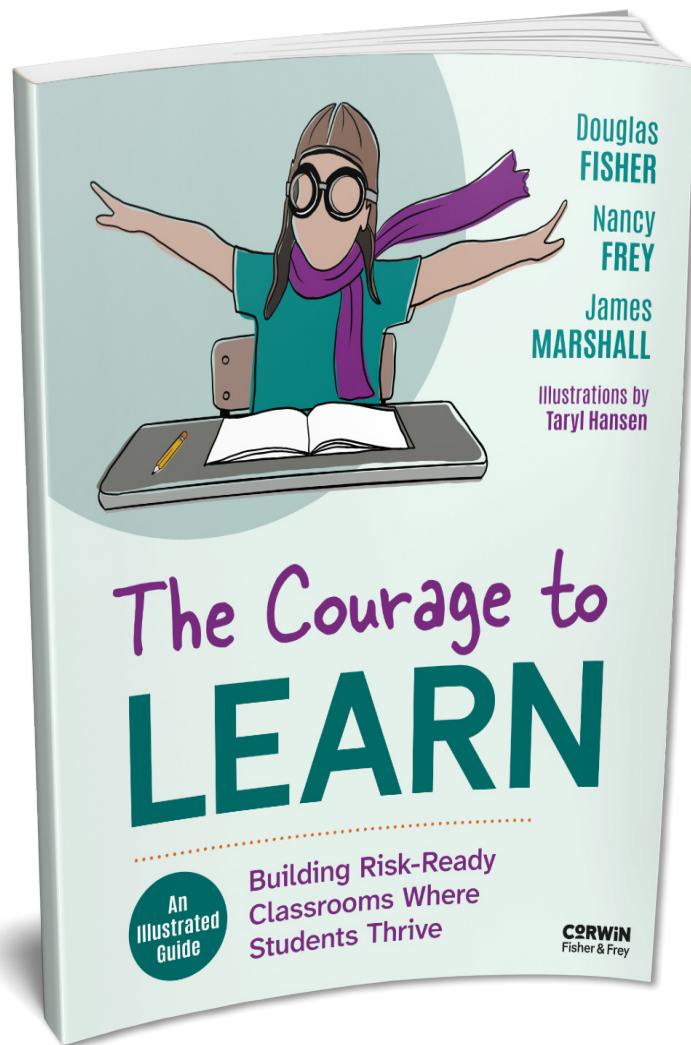




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Chunking Learning to Increase Success

Chunking requires that the teacher break larger bits of information into smaller units and group these units in manageable ways. Chunking works because it

- makes information easier to understand and remember.
- allows for focused practice on one idea at a time.
- helps students build confidence through small successes.

Chunking a Science Lesson on Conductivity

Chunk 1: What is conductivity? (Definition + examples)

Chunk 2: How do particles move in conductors versus insulators? (Diagrams + modeling)

Chunk 3: Predicting conductivity using structure (Metals versus nonmetals)

Chunk 4: Test and explain results (Hands-on experiment + analysis)

These chunks allow students to experience success more frequently, which tips their success-failure ratio to the side of success.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHUNKING INFORMATION

Issue	Discussion
Prior Knowledge 	✦ Begin by identifying what students already understand about the topic. ✦ Look for common misunderstandings that might interfere with new learning. ✦ Determine which key concepts or background knowledge are missing. ✦ Tailor content delivery based on student readiness and gaps in understanding.
Chunk Size 	✦ Keep chunks small when students are unfamiliar with the material. ✦ Present more information at once when students have a strong foundation. ✦ Use bite-sized content to reduce the risk of overload for novice learners. ✦ Adjust chunk size dynamically as student understanding deepens.
Chunk Sequence 	✦ Present content in an order that logically builds on itself. ✦ Start with fundamental vocabulary and concepts before moving to complex ideas. ✦ Make sure each chunk sets the stage for the next to support comprehension. ✦ Align sequencing with student needs rather than just textbook structure.
Chunk Activities 	✦ Incorporate practice that encourages reflection and reinforces learning. ✦ Use questioning techniques to engage students with each chunk of content. ✦ Provide feedback that helps students correct errors and strengthen understanding. ✦ Include activities that help students connect new content to prior knowledge.

Source: Adapted from Shank, P. (2021, May 12). What research tells us about chunking content. eLearning Industry. <https://elearningindustry.com/chunking-content-what-research-tells-us>