

Analogy as Pedagogy

*Using What Students Already Know In
Library Instruction*

Hello!

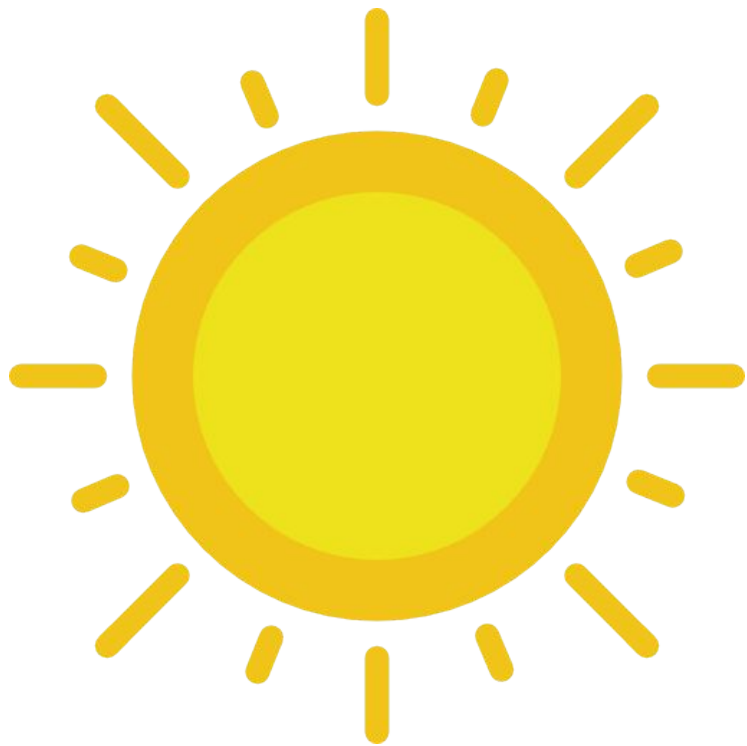
I'm Maggie Murphy

First-Year
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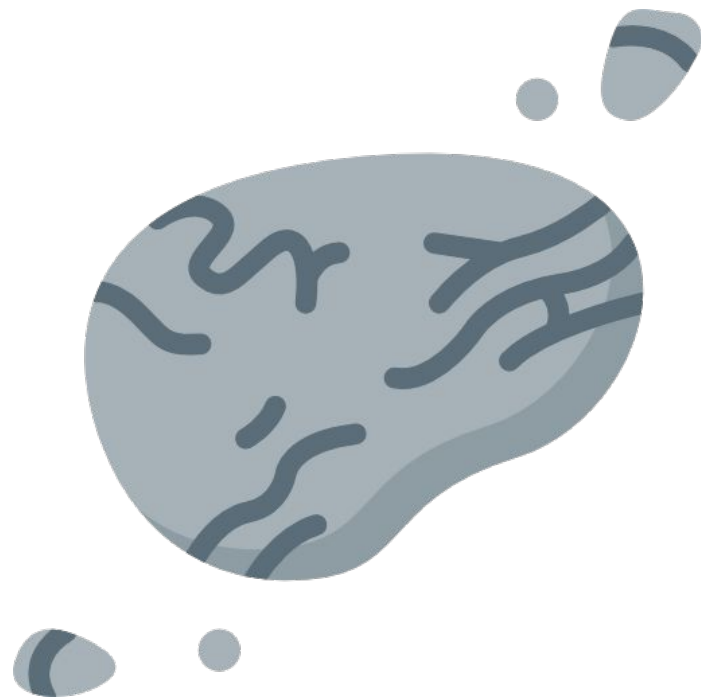


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Uses of
Analogies



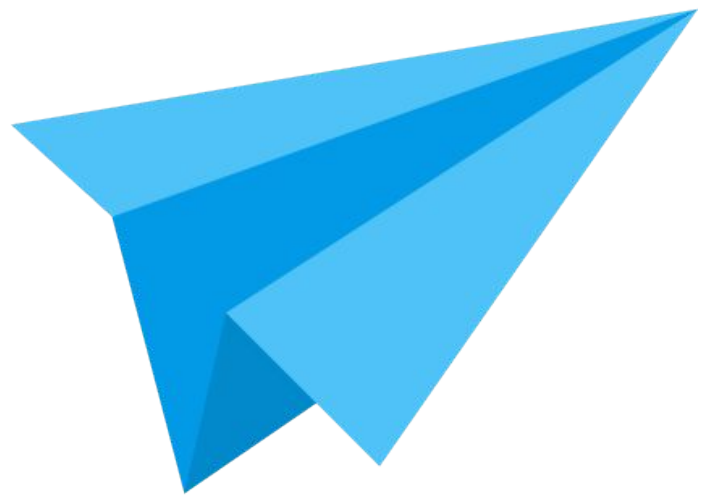
Plato



Galileo



Steve Jobs



Maggie Murphy

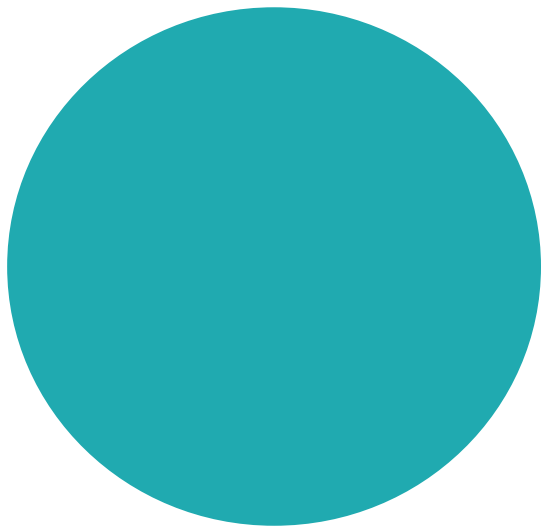
What is an
Analogy?

“An analogy is a
comparison of the
similarities of two
concepts.”

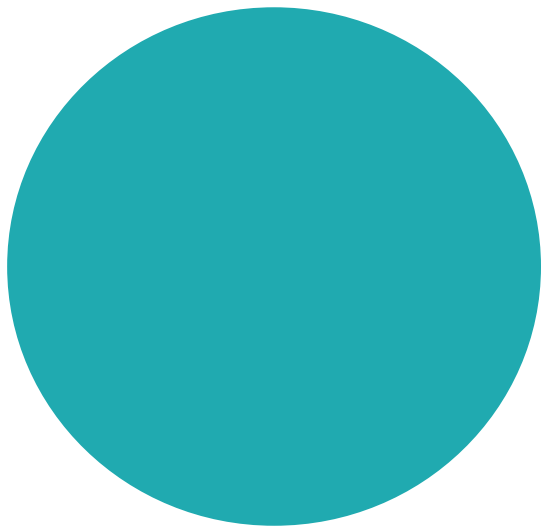
(Glynn, 2008, pp. 114-115)

"The familiar concept is called the **analog** and the unfamiliar one is the **target**."

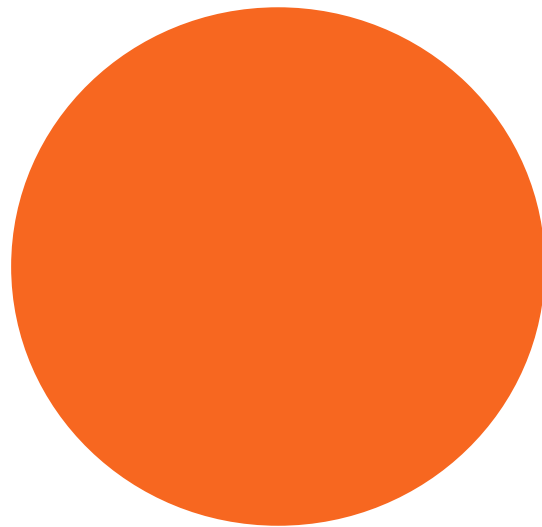
(Glynn, 2008, pp. 114-115)



Target



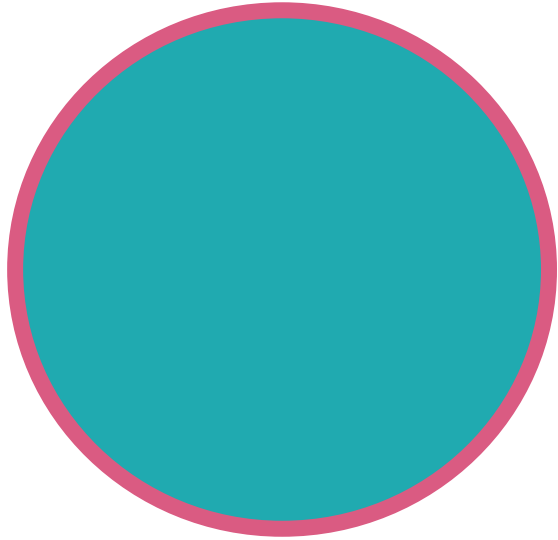
Target



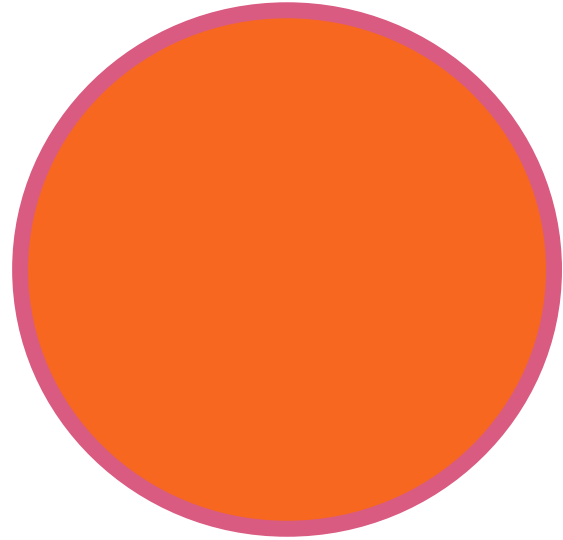
Analog

“If the **analog** and **target** share similar features, an **analogy** can be drawn between them.”

(Glynn, 2008, pp. 114-115)



Target

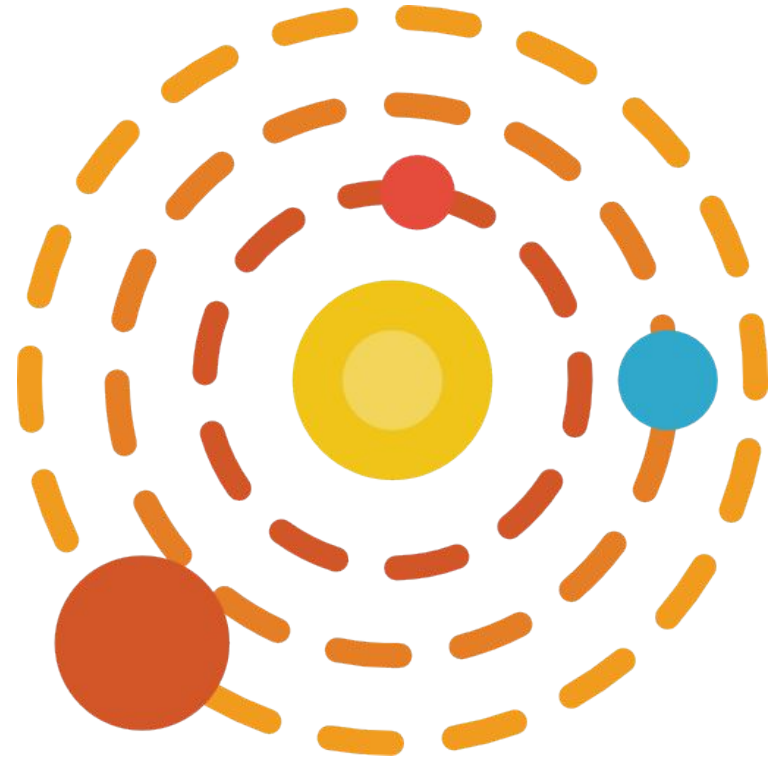
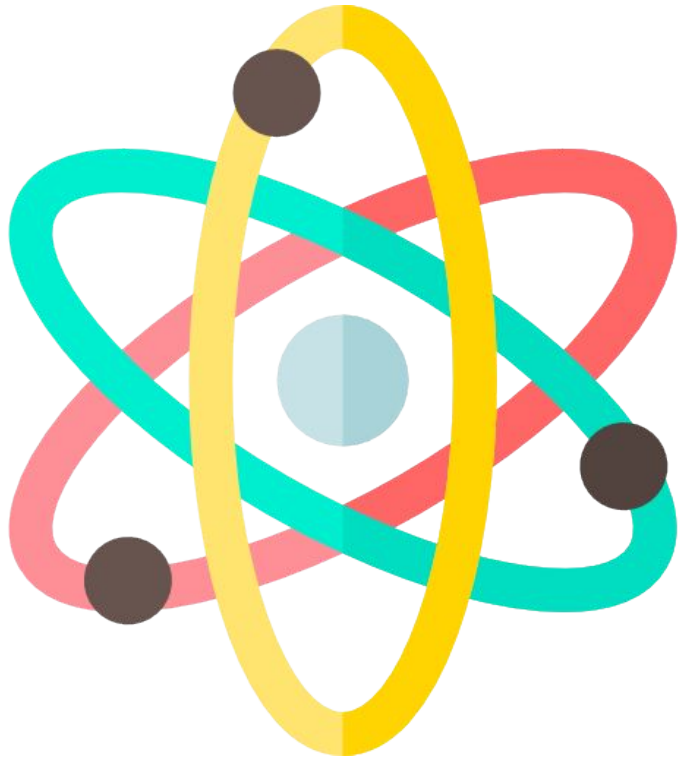


Analog

“Analogical reasoning can occur *between* conceptual domains and *within* a conceptual domain.”

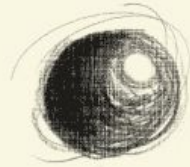
(Glynn, 2008, pp. 114-115)

Teaching with
Analogies



Science Instruction

What Is the Higgs?



Drawings by Nigel Holmes



Science Instruction



Step 3:

Modeling Mental Tasks

"Present a clear metaphor or analogy that makes clear the kind of thinking required to overcome the bottleneck."

Decoding the Disciplines

Analogies in

*Library
Instruction*



WorldCat®



HBO



EasyBib

Why It Works

The library catalog is like the collection of music files in your iTunes music library: It's the stuff you own. We own our books, so we keep information about them in a different place than info about our articles.

The databases are like your playlists on Spotify or Apple music: We subscribe to these platforms for access to content. We don't own our articles; we stream them. To find articles, we have to search in these databases.

Analogies I Use

You know when you search for a movie on Netflix and it tells you the movie is only available as a DVD? Like, if you want to watch it, you need to sign up for the DVD plan and wait for them to mail it to you? The full-text limiter helps you avoid that.

In a database, clicking “full text” limits your search results to just the stuff you can read right now, in the specific database you’re using. It’s like excluding results that are DVD-only movies on Netflix if you only want to see what you can stream right now.

Analogies I Use

Have you ever texted someone and autocorrect missed something you misspelled when you expected it to work? Or it corrects a word to a completely different word? Database citation tools are kind of like autocorrect.

The citation algorithm knows what a citation is supposed to look like, but when it takes information about an article from the database and tries to put it in the correct order for a citation, it sometimes formats the info in weird, incorrect ways.

Analogies I Use

Pick
current
and
relevant
analog.

Get
students
to explain
the
analog.

Resist the
urge to
improv.
Ditch bad
analogies!

Using Analogies to Teach

Creating
Analogies

"A systematic comparison...
between the features of the
analog and the **target** is
called a **mapping**."

(Glynn, 2008, pp. 114-115)

Analogy

Target Concept

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Feature 3
- Feature 4

Analog Concept

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Feature 3
- Feature 4

Searching in a database is kind of like using CTRL+F in a Word doc...

Keyword Search

- A digital search tool
- For finding articles to use in our research
- Locates exact match of input only

CTRL+F

- A digital search tool
- For locating all instances of a word in a text document
- Locates exact match of input only

Analogy

Target Concept

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Feature 3
- Feature 4

Analog Concept

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Feature 3
- Feature 4

If you also had a Netflix subscription, you wouldn't give up streaming *Grey's Anatomy* just because you couldn't watch it on Hulu...

Databases

- Articles
- You have access to more than one database
- Competitors have similar content but different holdings
- Search in more than one to find relevant research

Streaming Platforms

- TV/movies
- You have access to more than one platform
- Competitors have similar content but different holdings
- Search more than one to find a specific show



Analogy Brainstorming

1. What are you trying to explain? (This is your "target.")
2. Why is this concept or process "a stumbling block" for students?
- 3.
- 4.

Break down this concept into bullet points of major features or tasks (think physical and metacognitive!)

What familiar concept has similar features or tasks? (This is your "analog.") Your analogy might combine more than one analog to address all of the target features! Draw lines between the target and analog features that map to each other.

Target:
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Analog:
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Analog:
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5. Write out your analogy in narrative form. Explain the analogy. What is the relationship between the target and analog? Compare and contrast!

Imagine that...

You know how...

Does anyone do/use/have...

It's kind of like the way...

Get this worksheet!
[go.uncg.edu/
analogyaspedagogy](http://go.uncg.edu/analogyaspedagogy)

References

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