

Knowledge Or Skills

Education

The long argument about what a curriculum is made of, stated fairly.

Knowledge-led

- Skills depend on what you know about
- Comprehension tracks topic knowledge
- Generic skills transfer poorly
- Specifies content, not just outcomes
- Risk: coverage without meaning

Skills-led

- Facts date; methods last
- Aims at enquiry and evaluation
- Motivating and often engaging
- Specifies competences, not content
- Risk: skills taught with nothing to apply them to

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

The evidence favours the knowledge side of the transfer argument. Skills are real but are built on domain content, not instead of it.

Educational reference. The framing is a false choice in practice: nobody analyses a source they cannot read, or evaluates a period they do not