



"Revive what others have discarded. Use the old to control the new."
— 36 Stratagems, Stratagem 14

STRATAGEM

Resurrect the skills everyone else abandoned

Identify pre-digital capabilities that were systematically removed from education. Teach them to your child using the old methods. Combine them with modern tools to create compound advantage from scarcity.

REMEMBER

34% salary premium for old skills plus new tools

McKinsey data shows professionals who combine pre-digital frameworks with AI tools earn **34% more** than peers using AI alone. The resurrection creates value because everyone else threw the corpse away. Scarcity is advantage.

THIS WEEK

Three moves to run now

- Identify one abandoned skill from your own education that you found valuable: rhetoric, logic, woodworking, navigation, mental math, formal writing. Teach the basics to your child this weekend using the same method you learned.
- Have your child complete one task that requires the old skill without digital assistance: write a persuasive letter by hand, build something from wood without power tools, navigate to a new location using only a paper map. Discuss what they noticed.
- Create a weekly practice routine that combines the resurrected skill with a modern tool: rhetoric plus AI research, woodworking plus CAD design, mental math plus spreadsheet modeling. The old skill provides structure. The new tool provides leverage.

CORE INSIGHT

While the world races to teach children coding and data science, the economic value of pre-digital skills is quietly resurging in unexpected markets. Parents who help their children resurrect capabilities that older generations took for granted are building competitive moats that AI cannot easily cross. The stratagem works because everyone else has abandoned the corpse.