Predictable vs. Unpredictable

Use patterns when teaching new behaviors and unpredictable work when fine tuning or proofing those behaviors.

You might use one set of patterns for a new activity (to build muscle memory), and a highly unpredictable series of expectations for well understood behaviors. Patterning creates accuracy, but often that accuracy is at the cost of enthusiasm or motivation. But, the unexpected tends to create engagement and effort at the expense of muscle memory. Sigh.

Question: So, which is better?
Answer: You'll need both!

Review:

1) Heel in a circle to the right
2) Figure 8 with metronome (handler only)
3) Figure 8 with dog, no halting
4) Using sit box for straight fronts

Exercise: STAND

Game 1:
With a class partner, practice stand for exams.

Method:
Put one dog on a carabineer and work with your partner on stand for exams. Ask you partner to touch your dog briefly on the head, topline, and croup

Notes to Self

My dog

….loves to have fun
…cannot send in entries
…does not want to disappoint me
…would brave danger to get to me
…loves to be with me
…should enjoy being in the ring
…is relaxed when I'm relaxed
…depends on me
…would follow me anywhere
…is perfect

Exercise: RECALL to FRONT

Game 2:
With your partner holding your dog approx. 6 feet in front of you, call your dog; move in opp direction

Method:
Vary your position so that you are not always facing your dog. Toss a treat or toy to build your dog's motivation and speed. Make it fun!

Game 3:
Use oppositional reflex to build your recall

Method:
Push your dog away and run in the opposite direction

Game 4:
Recall to front on sit box

Method:
Put your dog in a wait at various distances; call him/her to you; reward on sit box for straight fronts.

"All his life he tried to be a good person. Many times, however, he failed. For after all, he was only human. He wasn't a dog." - Charles Schulz