Why Use Your 20 Yard Pin When Your Target is 10 Feet or Less Away?

Many a hunter has heard the familiar saying, "If the deer is 10 feet or less away, use your 20 yard pin." Why is this so? The reason lies in the flight of the arrow. In actuality, the flight of the arrow arcs to the object at which you are aiming. That means the arrow will fly below your line of sight, then rise higher than the line of sight, reach its apex about halfway, and then drop to the target and your sight line at the end. Since the arrow is on the rise for the first half of the distance, you are catching the arrow "on the rise" using your 20 yard pin. Your arrow will rise from your arrow rest, pass through the 20 yard pin sight line (which is typically about 10 feet away) rise to an apex and drop to your target. If you use your 10 yard pin, you will hit low because the arrow has not yet traveled enough distance to arc up to the 10 yard pin sight line. One thing to consider about this rule is that it is only a "guesstimate." Each bow is different, and we are only talking about one way to aim a bow.