Study strategies

What are the best ways to study material outside of class? The strategies listed here can enhance your learning of any material. Different strategies work well in different contexts, so be sure to align your strategy with the way your learning will be assessed.

Strategy

What is it?

When do Luse it?

Flashcards



Cards with information written on each side to help you associate words with definitions and/or examples.

Learn more about flashcards from our resource.

Flashcards are especially helpful to memorize a lot of information; it works on the principal of retrieval practice. where you practice pulling information out of your brain. If you do this regularly enough, it will move the information from your short term memory storage into long term memory storage.

Mnemonic device

Mnemonic

Please Excuse E - Exponent My Dear

Aunt Sally P - Parenthesis

M - Multiplication

D - Division

A - Addition S - Subtraction This is a memory aid that consists of using an image or keyword, acronym, song, or groupings to help connect with text or information.

You can use this tactic to improve your memory of facts, concepts and vocabulary. It can be helpful when learning a new language, a large list, or a large amount of information at once.

Practice testing



Quizzing yourself on the material you are expected to know or demonstrate. using the format that the assessment will be.

You can use this tactic to help you learn a variety of topics and subject matter. It can be used for long (essay), or short (one-word answer) questions. This tactic is effective when your goal is to remember, understand or apply key concepts and facts.



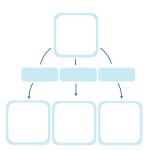
What is it?

When do I use it?

Concept mapping



Creating a diagram to depict the relationship between terms, concepts or ideas.



You can a create concept map to understand new material, or when you want to create a mental representation of an idea or selection of ideas. Concept maps can help you organize complex information and develop a deeper understanding of the material, which can help you analyze and evaluate the course material.

Summarization



Writing summaries of content that you read, listen to, or cover in your readings or course lecture by condensing information into a shorter, more concise version while maintaining key points.

This tactic is beneficial when you are trying connect ideas to each other or when trying to comprehend a text. It can help you practice identifying the main important points in a section of content. You can summarize via writing or talking aloud to yourself or someone else.

Elaboration



Explaining how new information relates to known information, or explain in detail the steps taken to solve a problem or to complete a process.

This tactic can be applied to almost any subject is effective when you are able to create connections between new information and information you already know. You can examine a piece of information in detail and connect it to prior learning, or discuss a subject as a whole with peers and gain new perspectives. Creating these connections about the information can enhance retrieval and lead to better understanding of a topic.



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