

Active Learning Strategies

For Studying “Smarter”

Test Yourself:

Are you studying “smart”? Test yourself by putting a check mark next to the methods you currently use:

1. _____ Write summaries in your own words
2. _____ Make up note cards
3. _____ Develop a chart to organize material
4. _____ Construct possible quiz questions
5. _____ Recite out loud
6. _____ Teach the material to someone else
7. _____ Use sticky post it notes on your textbook-pages to summarize paragraphs
8. _____ Write summaries in the margins of your text
9. _____ Read quietly
10. _____ Read quietly & highlight text
11. _____ Listen to tapes of a lecture
12. _____ Reread lecture/notes or a textbook chapter
13. _____ Recopy lecture notes
14. _____ Read someone else's lecture notes

Studying Smart:

The first 8 methods on the list above are active learning methods. They engage you in **active** learning and help you retain the material for later use. You will spend less time if you use these active methods. You are studying “smart”!! If you currently use them, keep up the good work. Methods 9-14 are passive learning methods. These are less effective methods and you are less likely to retain the material you are working on. See the suggestions below for “studying smarter”.

Passive

- Read notes or textbook quietly →
- Rereading notes before exam →
- Rereading text before exam →
- Memorizing definitions →
- Recopying notes →
- Reading someone else's notes →
- Listen to tapes of lecture →

Active

- Prepare summary questions, test yourself
- Quiz yourself from prepared questions
- Annotate in margins to summarize main ideas
- Recite out loud a sentence using term in context
- Write questions to summarize notes.
- Prepare outline from text and talk to instructor
- Leave spaces in your notes so that you can go back and fill in after lecture with help of text.