

A Guide to Active Learning

Test Yourself

Look at the study methods listed below. Test yourself by putting a check next to the methods you currently use:

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

Active Versus Passive Learning

The first 8 methods on the list are active learning methods. They engage you in an active way with the material you need to know and help you retain it for later use. If you currently use them, keep up the good work!! Methods 9-13 are passive learning methods. If you use them alone, you will be less likely to retain the material you are working on. They can easily be turned into active learning methods.

Passive

- Reading notes or textbook quietly —————>
- Rereading notes before exam —————>
- Rereading text before exam —————>
- Memorizing definitions —————>
- Recopying notes —————>
- Reading someone else's notes —————>

Active

- Prepare summary questions
- Quiz yourself from prepared questions
- Annotate in margins to summarize main ideas
- Recite out loud a sentence using term in context
- Annotate from text & write questions to summarize notes
- Prepare outline from text and talk to instructor