

EIGHT GREAT STUDY IDEAS



Do you need to hit the refresh button on your study skills? Try adding these strategies to your weekly routine.

1 START A STUDY GROUP

Meeting once or twice a week with other students in your class can have myriad benefits. Keep the group small and pick a spot where there are few distractions and you can talk back and forth. Good activities include sharing notes, talking through problems and other material, and asking and answering questions.

2 ANNOTATE YOUR NOTES

Note-taking is a two step process. After you take notes in class, you need to return to them to fill in gaps, ask questions in the margins, and highlight important ideas. Don't wait too long! We suggest revising and annotating your class notes several times a week.

3 DO A 5-MINUTE BRAIN DUMP

Wondering what to do when you have a short gap between classes? Try a 5-minute brain dump. Go to your notes and select a topic or discussion question, open up a fresh doc on your laptop (or grab a sheet of paper) and write down everything you know. Compare what you wrote with your notes or textbook.

4 TRY AN ONLINE QUIZ SITE

Studystack and Quizlet are favorites for college students. Access these free sites and search for material from your course or create your own study guides. Try the different self-testing options to see what works best for you. These tend to work best as short study activities, so limit your time to 15-20 minutes per session.

5 "SQ3R" YOUR TEXTBOOK READING

If you are having trouble getting through your textbook reading, try the SQ3R method: Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review. This popular technique involves previewing your reading and creating comprehension questions prior to diving into the text.

6 TURN PPT SLIDES INTO A QUIZ

Many professors rely on PowerPoint slides to supplement lecture. If the slides available on Blackboard, try this tip: 1) save a copy of the PPT presentation, 2) edit the slides by generating questions based on the content or turning the slides into "fill-in-the-blank" type statements. Look at them again in a few days and see how much you recall.

7 SCHEDULE STUDY HALLS

Time management and study skills go hand-in-hand. Take a look at your typical weekly schedule and try to carve out at least one "study hall" during each day where you go to the same location at the same time to do work. Building these times into your schedule will make them part of your regular routine.

8 USE SMART GOALS

SMART goals are goals that are Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-bound. When you are making your daily to-do list, keep this acronym in mind. Try to set up study goals you can accomplish within the time frame you have to work with.

