WHAT IS

ACTIVE STUDY ?

Active study means that you are processing new material or reviewing what you already understand in a **meaningful, and purposeful** way.

A good way to ensure that you are engaged in active study is to **produce a new product**, or to **share your learning** with someone .

Here are some suggested learning and study activities for you to try.

If you use these activities, you should experience **improved focus, increased concentration, better retention** and **deeper understanding** of the material.

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ACTIVE LEARNING

Write about it:

⇒ In your own words, write out the thesis or main point(s) of the reading you just read

⇒ Take the formula apart and write it in words

⇒ List the pros and cons of 2 or 3 approaches/theories/models

⇒ Write out the steps to solving a particular type of problem

⇒ After reading an article, reflect on how it connects to what you know so far. Write your thoughts down

⇒ Take apart an essay question by making a 'to do' list of what you have to do/know to answer the question

⇒ List the authors of readings and their key concepts or themes

⇒ Make cue cards of new terminology including examples

⇒ **After studying for an hour or so, write down what you have learned, and what you still need to work on**

more *act*ivities ...

Talk about it:

⇒ Explain how it works to someone

⇒ Tell a friend why you find this topic so interesting

⇒ Teach the material to someone

⇒ Discuss the material in a study group

⇒ Reread your notes, then retell them out loud to yourself

⇒ Show someone how to solve the problem. Explain as you go through the steps.

⇒ Talk through the material as if you were giving a presentation

⇒ Get together with a classmate and talk over/compare lecture notes

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SGW:H-440, LOY: AD-103 (x3921)

www.concordia.ca/learning

And more….

Summarize it:

⇒ After reading a section of a text book, and underlining key info, write brief notes in your own words

⇒ Using the lecture slides, list all the key words, then write a lecture summary

⇒ Using your notes, create an outline of main ideas and essential details

⇒ After looking over a solved problem from your text book, write out the procedure/steps, linked to the formula, in your own words

⇒ Reduce a chapter to a 'cheat sheet'

⇒ Using your lecture notes, create an outline on the topic, then link ideas to your readings

⇒ In your own words, write the main points or arguments from a reading

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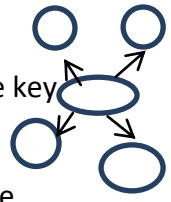
Draw it out:

⇒ Link concepts to parts of a procedure or equation

⇒ Make a mind map using the key vocabulary on a topic



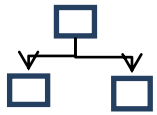
⇒ Draw a graph illustrating the concept

⇒ Create a flow chart for a process

⇒ Draw a diagram and label it

⇒ Draw parallel timelines for cause (events) and effect

⇒ Make a concept map of a theory or model

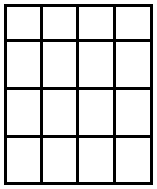


⇒ Think about the big picture. Where does this idea belong? Draw it out

⇒ Before reading the chapter, preview it. Make a 'map' of its contents/parts

⇒ Make a timeline of the evolution of an idea, theory or concept

⇒ Make a matrix of key terms/ themes/concepts and their characteristics and functions



Test yourself:

⇒ Make multiple choice questions

⇒ From memory, create an outline on a topic using info from lecture notes, linked to readings

⇒ After reading, try the questions at the end of the chapter

⇒ Write out the procedure or steps from memory

⇒ Take cue cards from the whole course, shuffle them, and sort them into themes, topics, processes, etc.

⇒ Make a concept map from memory

⇒ From memory, recreate a diagram and label it

⇒ Do practice questions

⇒ Work out the problem step by step without referring to your notes or solutions

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