

7 *Habits* of Highly Engaged Learners

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Habit 1: **Be Proactive!**

- Get to know your professor- go to their office hours, build a relationship and a rapport.
- Develop a study plan to make reading, reviewing and studying a part of each day.
- Register for a tutor, Success Coach, or join a study group at TASC.

Habit 2: **Get it Together!**

- Keep an organized study place that is free of clutter and distractions.
- Maintain a separate binder/notebook for each course – divide binder into sections: syllabus, lecture notes, book notes, graded assignments, etc.
- Combine all upcoming tests and assignments onto a monthly calendar; use each syllabus to compile the information and highlight the test days.

Habit 3: **Make Your Notes Count!**

- Learn and apply the *Cornell Note-Taking* strategy. Meet with a success coach to learn the strategy and undergo an extreme notes makeover.
- Put notes in your own words by paraphrasing and summarizing; use colors and symbols (?, !, *) to help make connections and grab your attention.
- Review and enhance notes *right away* while the information is still fresh in your mind. Take notes to the next level by using the **Fold-Out** strategy, “**mapping**”, creating **concept cards**, etc.

Habit 4: **Be in the NOW!**

- Sit in the front of the class in order to stay focused and more engaged.
- Texting, napping and other distractions defeat the purpose of attending the class.
- Don't put off reading or studying for another day. The only time is now.

Habit 5: **Know Thyself**

- Set *realistic* goals. Are you really going to catch up on reading on a Friday night?
- Post your goals where you can see them and make them a part of your thinking.
- Meet with a success coach to take *learning styles* inventories and discover strategies that work for you.

Habit 6: **Be an Active Reader**

- When reading have two tools in hand...a highlighter and a pen. If you highlight something, why did you highlight it? Annotate in the text or add the information to lecture notes.
- Use different reading speeds... you can quickly skim chapter outlines, main headings, sub-headings, graphs, charts, etc. but slow down when you get to any bold words or words in italics.
- Monitor your comprehension by asking, “What did I just read?” and “Why is this important?” If you catch yourself getting lost, try rereading and turning into key words.

Habit 7: **Study Like You Mean It**

- The library is the *perfect* place to study and will help you to escape distractions at home or in the dorm. Try it and you will be surprised at the results.
- Don't make study guides/strategies the night before the test... making them in advance gives you time to USE the tools you have created.
- Study with a classmate, register for a tutor or join study group. According to Dale's Cone of learning, we generally remember only 10% of what we *read* and 20% of what we *hear*, but we remember about 90% of what we *say and do*.