The Importance of Study Skills

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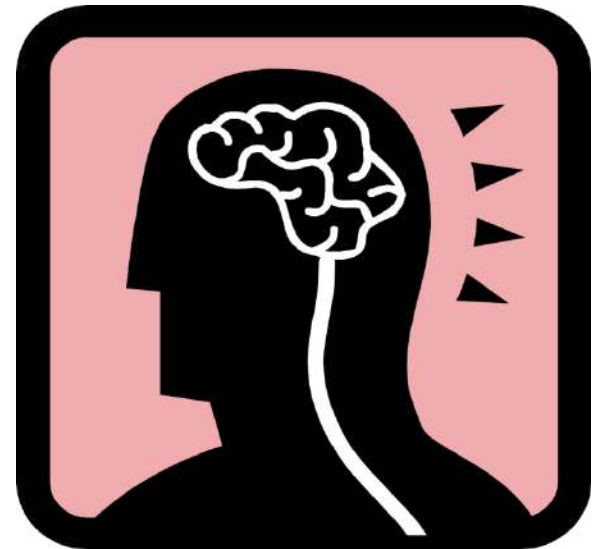
And Patricia Cassa

Why should students learn study skills?

- "Study skills are fundamental to academic competence." Jill Seibert professor of psychology University of South Carolina

- "That which we persist in doing becomes easier, not that the task itself has become easier, but that our ability to perform it has improved."   Ralph Waldo Emerson

What are the elements of Study Skills?

- Organization
- Time Management
- Learning Styles
- Reading with a purpose
- Active participation in class
- Note-taking
- Meta cognition
- Twenty first century skills

Organization

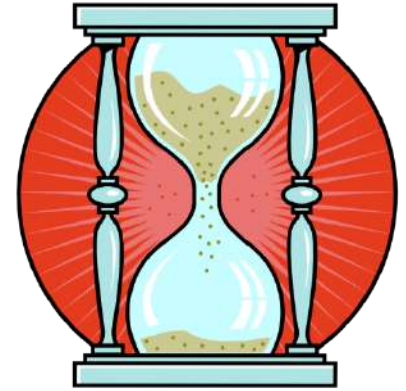Write down assignments in an agenda book

Devise a "To Do List" short intervals in the beginning

Rewards after tasks are completed

Use a calendar to chunk long term projects and unit tests

Time Management

- Keep "To Do Lists" short- 15 minutes
-     for each task and build stamina over time
- Do hardest assignments first
- Reward with a favorite activity after homework is completed
- Take a minute to reflect….. Were tasks completed during the time frame?

Learning Styles-
Kinetic Learner

- Team player with good motor
-      skills
- Might need brief breaks between tasks
- Fair to good communication skills
- Works well in study groups
- Prefers projects to quizzes and tests

Visual Learners

- Gets the big picture but forgets
- the details
- Benefits from graphic organizers
- Visualizes stories and events
- Prefers to shorten language to remember content

Auditory Learners

- Benefit from teacher's lectures and
- 	group discussions
- Will often ask questions for clarification
- Prefer audio textbooks and novels
- Often repeats information to remember it

Reading for a Purpose

- Preview assignment before reading:
-    1. Look at pictures and captions
-      maps, graphs and charts
-    2. Read chapter titles and bold headings and
-      vocabulary in bold print. Try to determine
-      big picture.
-   Read the chapter.
- Summarize the main idea. It can be orally or in
-    writing
- This is a skill that takes time and will not be achieved readily
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Active Listening

- Be prepared; if there is no time to read the chapter, use the text-tools to find the main idea.

- Have some questions to ask the teacher for clarification.

- Be ready to participate in the class discussion

- Show interest in the topic

Note Taking While Reading Text
Two Column Notes

- Use the left column for main idea
- Example:
-    Colonies declare war on
-     England

Use the right column for supporting facts

Example:

Taxes on stamps, tea,
imported goods

Soldiers housed in colonial homes

No representation in Parliament

Taking Notes During Lectures
Remember to record date and title of chapter

- First column for main idea
-     1. There might be additional topics that were not included in the textbook

Record supporting details

    1. record examples

    2. write questions that need clarification

    3. Write information that is repeated

    4. Additional vocabulary not in the textbook

Importance of Taking Notes

- Understanding of key concepts

- Retention of information

- Clarification of unclear topics

Metacognition

- This is a fancy word for reflection
- Review the preparation strategies
- What part of the study skills process worked
-     well?
- What parts still need work? Be patient!
- How did test results improve as a result of increased effort?
- Study skills takes practice and effort. It takes time!

Twenty First Century Skills

- Critical Thinking- Problem Solving Skills
- Collaboration with Peers
- Creativity
- Technology- use of the internet (reliable sites)
- 1. Blogs
- 2. Twitter
- 3. Skype
- 4. On-line learning
- Life Skills
- Global Awareness

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