STUDY STRATEGIES AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

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HMMM....PLEASE TELL ME...

WHAT DOES STUDYING HAVE TO DO WITH THINKING?
Critical thinking means....

- Thinking about thinking
- Searching
- Making associations (former knowledge)
- Explaining
- Analyzing - Looking for options
- Problem solving
- Thinking “outside the box” & thinking about something from many angles
In the classroom, critical thinking involves:

- Restraining emotion (allows objectivity)
- Looking at things differently (thinking beyond the obvious)
- Analyzing information (break it down!)
- Asking questions (promotes knowledge, helps solve problems)
- Problem solving (identify it, narrow it, look for and develop alternatives)
- Fact vs. opinion (can it be proven?)
- Seeking truth (where is it?)
SO AGAIN, I ASK....

• WHAT DOES STUDYING HAVE TO DO WITH THINKING?

STUDYING involves THINKING (lots of it)!

***Allow yourself to ENJOY the process of thinking and learning
TO STUDY WELL, YOU MUST CONSIDER:

- ENVIRONMENT
- INFORMATION
- EXPECTATIONS (OF SELF, TEACHER, CLASS)
- MEMORY – your brain is like a funnel of information....you must learn how to organize and filter it!
SHORT TERM MEMORY VS. LONG TERM MEMORY

- **Sort term memory**, a.k.a. working memory: holds a limited amount of info
- **Long term memory**: holds lots of info, like a flash drive; takes effort to store info into long term memory; consists of info you’ve been hearing over and over
- Must review info within 36-48 hours of hearing/learning it in order to store it into your long-term memory, review class notes/material within this amount of time!
How do you remember information?

- **VCR3**
  - Visualize
  - Concentrate
  - Relate (make associations/critically think)
  - Repeat
  - Review
Memory Helpers and Hindrances

**Helpers**
- Proper sleep
- Proper diet
- Physical Exercise
- Mental Exercise
- Positivity
- Environment
- Study breaks
- Repetition/visualization

**Hindrances**
- Distractions
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Stress
- Close-mindedness
- Inability to distinguish important facts from unimportant facts
TRUE OR FALSE?

“TO KNOW IT IS TO MEMORIZE IT!”

“When you know it, you can study it and remember it!”

“TO LEARN IT IS TO KNOW IT!”
Three Useful Study Strategies:
1. SQ3R

1. SQ3R: Scan, Question, Read (& annotate), Recite, Review

- Works best with scanning and reading textbooks
2. MNEMONICS

- Works best to study lecture notes and textbook notes
- Examples of mnemonics:
  - Jingles/rhymes
  - Sentences
  - Words
  - Storylines
  - Acronyms
**Sentences/Rhymes/Words/Acronyms**

- **Sentences:** create a sentence with the first letter of each work of list of things you need to remember...think about the planets...
  - My Very Elderly Mother Just Sat Up Nights
  - Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

- **Jingles/Rhymes:** think of commercials, songs...use information you need to study and apply to the beat of your favorite song – ABCs

- **Words** – think of remembering the great Lakes: HOMES = Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior

- **Acronyms:** First letter of each word and form a word:
  - FANBOYS – For, And, Nor, But, Or Yet, So
3. Cooperative Learning

- Cooperative Learning is collaborative and group learning...
- A study group has the following:
  - 5-7 people
  - People who take notes
  - People who ask questions
  - People who will work diligently
  - People who are doing well in the class
In a Group, You Must...

- Develop “rules” for the group & pick a leader
- Ask questions
- Compare & share notes/ideas/understandings
- Drill and test each other
- Make predictions together
- Brainstorm
- If someone in the group is NOT following the rules of the group, they must go!
When You Don’t Have Time….

- Don’t blame your teacher
- Read quickly (remember SQ3R): Headings, highlighted info, introduction, conclusion, first & last sentence of each paragraph
- Make connections (think critically)
- Use study guides, old tests & quizzes
- VISUALIZE IT
- REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!!!
- Choose info wisely – cramming means choosing what you think is most important – YOU CANNOT REMEMBER EVERYTHING WHEN YOU PROCRASTINATE!
• Learn it, don’t try to memorize – it’s impossible!
• Focus on the prize
• Think about what YOU want out of your class
• Don’t wait....review every day & when it is time for the test, you will not have to study, you will simply re-review!
• THINK as you study...it will help you better understand & remember
Questions?

- Questions? Comments?
- What can you add to this presentation?
- Study tactics that work for you?
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