

Rehearsing to Learn Study Tips

REHEARSAL STRATEGIES: Rehearsal strategies provide ways to practice responses in studying or reviewing.

1. MAKE A LIST OF KEY CONCEPTS, TOPICS, WORDS, OR TERMS

These concepts and terms will serve as the core of your material. You will use them to organize the material and to generate possible questions.

2. COMBINE INFORMATION FROM CLASS NOTES AND READINGS

Create subsets of notes and readings that are organized around key concepts. On a sheet of paper write the concept at the top and then combine material from notes and readings under that heading.

3. MAKE A LIST OF POSSIBLE TEST ITEMS

Your instructor may have indicated that "this is a good test question" during lecture. Definitions and lists provide good test items. Discussion questions may be created from key concepts. If there are different points of view in your material, compare and contrast questions are possible test items. Study questions in the text are also a source for questions.

4. SAMPLE TESTS OR TEST ITEMS

If the instructor does not post sample tests from previous classes, ask for some sample questions.

5. MEMORIZING

In some instances it is necessary to memorize definitions or lists. There are specific techniques which may aid memorizing in some cases. It may be possible to group material around similarities which will reduce the amount of material to be memorized. Note cards with the word on one side and definition on the other may be used as flash cards. Mnemonics and acronyms may also be used to aid memory.

6. ACTIVE LEARNING

After rereading and rewriting your materials, use many different activities to rehearse the material. These activities include reciting or writing responses to yourself, reciting or writing responses to peers, using devices such as flash cards to quiz yourself and others, drawing diagrams or labeling diagrams, and quizzing each other in groups such as in a game show format.

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