

Strategies for Academic Success

Course Number: EL1087

Grade level: 9–12

Credits: 0.5

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Description

Offering a comprehensive analysis of different types of motivation, study habits, and learning styles, EL1087 encourages high school and middle school students to take control of their learning by exploring varying strategies for success. Providing engaging lessons that will help students identify what works best for them individually, this one-semester course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Compare different types of motivation and explain how motivation affects academics
- Understand the concept of academic integrity, and define cheating as it relates to online learning
- Identify different types of organizers, and describe the purposes of each
- Describe different strategies for remembering information
- List and explain each of the five steps of test preparation
- Explain the importance of following a rubric
- Describe the benefits of creating study groups, and distinguish the characteristics of quality study groups

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Assignments	10%
Essays	0%
Lesson Quizzes	40%
Unit Tests	50%
Cumulative Exams	0%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

Unit 1: Taking Control of My Academic Success

Unit 2: Your Online Learning Experience

Unit 3: Taking High-Quality Notes

Unit 4: Memorization Techniques

Unit 5: Five Steps to Test Preparation

Unit 6: Test-Taking Strategies

Unit 7: The Benefits of Visual Aids

Unit 8: Using References

Unit 9: Quality Final Products

Unit 10: Strategies for Academic Success

Unit 11: Reading Techniques

Topic	Lesson	Objective	Objective2	Objective3
Taking Control of My Academic Success				
	Understanding Motivation	Compare different types of motivation	Explain how motivation affects academics	
	Evaluating My Study Habits	Define personal study habits	Explore ways to create personal study routines	Identify characteristics of appropriate study space
	Understanding My Learning Style	Define learning style	Explore different types of learning styles and multiple intelligences	Identify personal learning style
	Taking Proactive Steps to Succeed	Summarize importance of communication to academic success	Identify organizational strategies for academic success	Discuss the importance of attendance
	Setting Academic Goals	Define goal	Identify types of academic goals	Explain steps for set academic goals
Your Online Learning Experience				
	Preparing for Online Learning	Identify technology skills needed for online classes	Describe responsibility as it relates to online education	
	Using the Internet Responsibly	Compare characteristics of safe and unsafe sites	Locate school rules on visiting Websites, downloading information and using programs from the Internet	
	Academic Integrity on the Internet	Understand the concept of academic integrity	Contrast global knowledge and personal ideas	Define cheating as it relates to online learning
Taking High Quality Notes				
	Note Taking 101	Explain strategies for quality note taking	Identify key points to include and exclude in notes	
	Note Taking 101-Part 2	Describe ways an organizer will assist in note taking	Understand importance of asking questions	
	Notes From a Lecture	Apply note taking skills to a lecture format	Practice outlining to take quality notes	
	Notes From a Text	Explain the steps for SQRW	Apply outlining techniques to notes from a text	
	Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizers	Describe purposes of compare and contrast organizers	Demonstrate use of compare and contrast organizers	
	Cause and Effect Graphic Organizers	Identify types of cause and effect organizers	Describe purposes of cause and effect organizers	Demonstrate use of cause and effect organizers

Topic	Lesson	Objective	Objective2	Objective3
Memorization Techniques				
	Remembering Through Repetition	Define repetition as a strategy for remembering information	Describe the steps for using repetition	Demonstrate the use of flashcards to memorize information
	Using Acronyms	Describe acronyms as a strategy for remembering information	Describe the steps for using acronyms	Demonstrate the use of acronyms to memorize information
	Rhyming and Keywords	Describe rhyming and using keywords as a strategy for remembering information	Demonstrate the use of rhyming and using keywords to memorize information	
	Visualization and Categorization	Describe visualization and categorization as a strategy for remembering information	Describe the steps for using visualization and categorization	Demonstrate the use of visualizing and categorizing to memorize information
5 Steps to Test Preparation				
	Step 1 - Determine What to Study	Explore study preparation strategies	Define and create a study activity checklist	
	Step 2 - Organize Notes	Describe procedures for organizing notes	Create a graphic organizer to synthesize notes	
	Step 3 - Compile Study Materials	Identify materials for efficient studying	Practice creating potential questions for tests	
	Step 4 - Apply Memorization Techniques	Select from applicable memorization techniques to use in test preparation		
	Step 5 - The Day of the Test	Identify test preparation strategies and their importance on test day	Identify strategies to overcome test anxiety	
Test Taking Strategies				
	Testing Tactics	Explore test taking strategies that apply to all types of tests		
	Best Answer Tests	Examine characteristics of best answer tests	Apply best answer test taking strategies to correctly answer questions	
	Response Tests	Examine characteristics of response type questions	Apply response test taking strategies to correctly answer questions	
	Open Book Tests	Examine the characteristics of open book tests	Describe open book test taking strategies	

Topic	Lesson	Objective	Objective2	Objective3
	Preparing for Essay Tests	Explore essay test pre-planning strategies		
	Answering Essay Questions	Explore strategies for successful essay writing		
The Benefits of Visual Aids				
	Using Visual Aids	List ways in which the use of visual aids benefit studying	Identify and define components of most visual aids	
	Graphical Representations	Describe the purpose of graphs as visual aids	List and use the components of graphs	
	Organizational Aids	Examine visual aids to understand sequence	Make connections between information using visual aids	
	Meaning Through Maps	Identify specific components of maps	Use map skills to determine meaning of a particular map	
Using References				
	Major Types of Reference Sources	Identify the five major types of reference sources	Explain the differences between reference source formats	
	Using a Dictionary	Discuss the purpose of a dictionary	Identify the types of information found on a page in the dictionary	
	Using a Thesaurus	Understand the purpose of a thesaurus	Utilize a thesaurus to increase the quality of written work	
	Informational References	Compare and contrast uses of encyclopedias, atlases and almanacs	Use encyclopedias, almanacs and atlases to find specific information	
	Text Aids	Locate and define the purpose of title page and a glossary	Use a Table of Contents and an index to determine information contained in a text	
	Selecting Sources	Define source	List characteristics of credible text and Internet sources	Create a bibliography citation
Quality Final Products				
	Developing Your Topic	Evaluate topic ideas for clarity and appropriateness	Initiate efficient research processes based on a chosen topic	
	Writing Quality Papers	Describe writing elements of high quality papers	Analyze sample paper for possible improvements	

Topic	Lesson	Objective	Objective2	Objective3
	Giving Quality Presentations	Describe elements of strong speaking skills	Describe ways to use visual aids in quality presentations	
	Using Rubrics	Define rubric	Explain importance of following rubrics	
Strategies for Academic Success				
	Utilizing a Calendar	Identify characteristics of daily, weekly, and term calendars	Understand the benefits of using calendars	Create a personal calendar
	Applying Critical Thinking Skills	Explore components of critical thinking	Apply critical thinking skills in real world situations	
	Forming study groups	Describe the benefits of creating study groups	Distinguish characteristics of quality study groups	
	When to seek a tutor	Identify reasons to seek tutor assistance	Identify resources to locate tutor assistance	
Reading Techniques				
	Prereading Strategies	Define critical reading	Explore prereading strategies for successful reading comprehension	
	Reading for Content	Describe strategies for reading subject content		
	Reading Difficult Material	Examine strategies to complete a difficult reading passage successfully		
	Increase Your Reading Speed	Examine reading techniques which increase speed of reading	Assess reading speed	
Diagnostic Post-test				
	Diagnostic Post test			