WORK SMARTER: UTILIZING ACTIVE STUDY STRATEGIES

If you are going to take the time to study for tests and quizzes, you might as well use that time as wisely as possible. Students who perform better on exams often don't spend more time studying than other students, but they are likely to study differently by utilizing these active strategies.

Material to study	Passive study strategy	Active study strategy
Lecture notes	Re-read notes	• Identify main points and explain in your own words • Re-write and summarize • Cross reference your notes with the text or a friend's notes to makes sure they are accurate and complete
Textbooks and articles	Read, re-read	• Take notes on sticky notes as you read to summarize, identify main points and define key terms • When reading, read aloud (saying it and hearing it will help you remember) • Change chapter headings into questions and look for the answers as you read
Assigned problems and exercises	Try to solve while looking at class examples	• Try to solve problems on your own first, then look at class examples • Once you have finish the assigned problems, do the rest of the set (if you are assigned evens, now do the odds)
PowerPoint slides	Print out and read	• Print out the slides (in handout form) and write possible test questions in the margin and quiz yourself on the info • Write information from your notes and the text book on the print outs
Lab reports	Re-read the answers	• Highlight, summarize and add extra notes in the margins.
Novels	Read	• Take notes on sticky notes as you read to summarize, identify main characters, themes, literary devices, etc. • Utilize online summaries and analyses to reinforce what you read • Read, highlight, summarize all discussion notes and questions
Vocabulary lists	Read the definitions	• Write original sentences for the words (think about using your friends' names, funny situations, etc. –this will help you remember the words) • Make up a story that uses the words • Make flashcards (put definition, a sentence, a symbol or picture)
Terms, dates, and names	Looking over your notes	• Flashcards (commit 5 to memory, then add 5 more, etc.) • Turn your notes into quiz questions (i.e. Who is Thomas Jefferson? Or What happened on Sept. 17, 1787?)
Study guides	Re-read	• If study guides are already in question form, write and say the answers out loud. • If they are in topic form, write a question for each topic and then write and say the answer. • Make and use flashcards using the information