

Knowing What's Important?

Learning Support Center
Based on *Easy A's*
Winning the School Game
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What's Important?

- ◉ If you want to cut down on your workload, have more free time, and still get high grades, you need to know the answers to the following questions...

Answer the following question:

- ◉ What do you study?
- ◉ How do you know what is important?
- ◉ What should you pay attention to in class?
- ◉ How do you know when you're right?

Test Analysis / Post Testing

- After you take your first test, or get your first test back, find as many of the test questions as you can in your notes!
- Then find as many test questions as you can in your textbook.
- Mark down where the answers are from!

Test Analysis

- This is an effective way to find out what is important!
- You will also get feedback regarding the quality of your note taking
- You will get a better understanding of how to use your textbooks most efficiently.

Note taking

- Those who take excellent notes will *often* find upwards of 95% of the answers to most of their tests in their notes.
- Finding the answers to test questions in your textbooks will help clue you in to what parts of the book the teacher considers important.

Textbooks

- ◉ Does the teacher take most of his or her questions from:
 - > graphs and tables?
 - > definitions/?

You will discover patterns!

Teacher Editions

- ◉ Most teacher textbooks come with a bank of test questions
- ◉ Some teachers make up their tests exclusively from this bank
- ◉ In these cases, you'll find 100% of the answers to these tests in the book

Using Class Time

- Teachers have an order and logic to the material they present to their classes
- Your notes should reflect this order and logic
- Notes should usually be in the form of an outline

Reading The Teacher

- The two sources of information in a class are the teacher and the readings
- About 95% of the time, the teacher is by far the most important source!
- The teacher is the one who tells you what 's pertinent and what's not

Class Time

- ◉ The best way to learn about what to study is to attend class and pay close attention
- ◉ Learn how to read your teacher!
- ◉ Teacher “reads” can be as obvious as their saying “This will be on the test, so be sure you know it!”

Reading The Teacher

- ◎ Look for the following:
 - > Teacher's voices getting slightly louder to emphasize an important point
 - > Repetition – information that's repeated
 - > Emphasis – “Listen up, this is important!”
 - > An increase in the teacher's movement – he becomes more animated
 - > An increase in the teacher's intensity

You're Reading List

- ◉ Develop a list of reads for each one of your teachers
- ◉ Most teachers will give a slightly different “read”

Vocabulary: The Key to Excelling in Most Subjects

- ◉ Every subject has its own language.
- ◉ Master that language, and you will be on the way to mastering that class
- ◉ Think of each subject as a foreign language. It's no different for biology, chemistry, psychology, etc.

Vocabulary: The Key to Excelling in Most Subjects

- At the beginning of each course, take the time to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary!
- What do you do if you simply can't seem to understand the instructor's lecture?
 - > Concentrate on developing your fluency with that subject's language!

Vocabulary: The Key to Excelling in Most Subjects

- Use the glossary in your textbook, and taking a piece of notebook paper, write the vocabulary word in the margin and the definition next to it.
- Fold the notebook paper in half and quiz yourself

So, what's important?

- ◉ In summary, the great majority of teachers and college professors cover almost all of the material needed for their tests in their lectures!