

REMEMBERING AP ART HISTORY IMAGES

MEMORIZATION TECHNIQUES

1. **Acronyms: (for information involving key words)**
An acronym is an invented combination of letters. Each letter is a cue to an idea you need to remember.
Example: BRASS is an acronym for how to shoot a rifle--Breath, Relax, Aim, Sight, Squeeze.
2. **Rhyme-Keys: (for ordered or unordered lists)**
First, memorize key words that can be associated with numbers. For instance, bun with one; shoe with two, tree with three, door with four, hive with five, etc.
Next create an image of the items you need to remember with key words. For example, if you had to remember the four basic food groups-- diary products; meat, fish, and poultry; grains; and fruit and vegetables--imagine cheese on a bun, livestock with shoes on, a sack of grain suspended in a tree, and opening a door to a room stocked with fruits and vegetables.
3. **The Method of Loci: (for approximately twenty items)**
Select any location that you have spent a lot of time in and have easily memorized. Imagine yourself walking through the location, selecting clearly defined places--the door, sofa, refrigerator, shelf, etc. Imagine yourself putting objects that you need to remember into each of these places by walking through this location in a direct path. Again, you need a standard direct path and clearly defined locations for objects to facilitate the retrieval of these objects. For example if you had to remember George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Richard Nixon, you could imagine walking up to the door of your location and seeing a dollar bill stuck in the door; when you open the door Jefferson is reclining on the sofa and Nixon is eating out of the refrigerator.
4. **Chaining: (for ordered or unordered lists)**
Create a story where each word or idea you have to remember cues the next idea you need to recall. If you had to remember the words Napoleon, ear, door, and Germany, you could invent a story of Napoleon with his ear to a door listening to people speak in German.

EFFECTIVE STUDYING

- **Create study checklists**
that can help you identify all of the material that you will be tested on-- list notes, formulas, ideas, and text assignments you are accountable for. This checklist will enable you to break your studying into organized, manageable chunks, which should allow for a comprehensive review plan with minimal anxiety
- **Create summary notes**
that briefly map out the important ideas of the course and the relationships of these ideas. Such summary notes should display lists and hierarchies of ideas. *A bit of artistic flair will provide you with a visual framework that aids recall.*
- **Record your notes**
and significant portions of text on MP3s so you can review material with an MP3 player. Having a tape of important information will enable you to study while walking or relaxing in a nonacademic environment.
- **Create flashcards**
for definitions, formulas, or lists that you need to have memorized--put topics on one side of the card, answers on the other. Flashcards will enable you to test your ability to not only recognize important information, but also your ability to retrieve information from scratch.

PREPARING / ORGANIZING FOR TESTS

- **Begin reviewing early**
This will give your brain time to get comfortable with the information
- **Conduct short daily review sessions**
You can ease into more intense review session prior to major exams;
- **Read text assignments before lectures**
This will help you identify concepts that the instructor considers important and that are already somewhat familiar;
- **Review notes immediately after lectures**
This will help you identify information that you do not understand while the lecture is still fresh in your memory-- and other students' memories as well. When you review immediately, you'll have time to clarify information with other students;
- **Review with a group**
This will enable you to cover important material that you may overlook on your own;
- **Conduct a major review early enough** to allow for a visit to the instructor during his office hours if necessary
- **Break up the study tasks into manageable chunks**, especially during major reviews prior to exams.

Studying three hours in the morning and three in the evening will be more effective than studying at a six hour stretch. *Studying while you are mentally fatigued is usually a waste of time*

- ***Study the most difficult material when you are alert***

STUDY TIPS

- **Review your notes and readings frequently, so the material is "fresh"**
- **As you're reading your text or reviewing your notes**, generate and write down questions about the material. *Imagine you're teaching the course. What questions would you ask on the exam?*
- **Write each question or term on the back of an index card**
 - On the front of each index card, **write an answer** or an explanation for the question or term on the back.
Use your notes and text for a reference, but put the answer or explanation in your own words whenever possible
 - **Shuffle the index cards** (so you can't figure out any answers based on their location in the deck)
 - **Look at the card on the top of the deck:**
Try to answer the question or explain the term. If you know it, great! Put it on the bottom of the deck. If you don't know it, look at the answer, and put it a few cards down in the deck (so you'll come back to it soon)
 - **Proceed through the deck of cards until you know all of the information**
 - **Carry your cards with you everywhere.**
Take advantage of little pockets of time. Test yourself while you're waiting on line, riding the bus, etc.
- **If you think you know an answer**, but can't put it into words, you probably don't know it well enough. Being able to explain the information is the only way to be sure that you know it. It's also the best way to prevent test anxiety
- **Consider testing yourself someplace where nobody can see you** *(and think you're crazy), and recite the information out loud. That's the best way to be sure that you can explain them.*
- **Study with a friend from your class.**
You can share ideas and help each other out with concepts. Also, you can use each other to make sure that you're explaining your answers adequately.