Explore Learning Tips

Self Awareness Is Key
You have an unusual learning style that often is not accommodated by traditional teaching methods. By using the strengths of your style and being aware of your individual process, you can integrate your uniqueness and be successful in the educational system.

Let's Begin at The Very Beginning
Your first assignment starts before classes do. You need to find an ideal teacher, one that relates to students and is dynamic in the classroom. You relate best to teachers who enjoy philosophizing and integrating what needs to be learned. You prefer teachers who encourage questions of a general nature and who offer analogies that relate to the subject in any way.

Record and Recopy Notes
Using a recorder in class is beneficial since most of the time your class notes aren't clear, orderly and reflective of what really happened. You get caught up in an idea or personal assumption and forget to write down the facts within a coherent whole thought. After the class, review the recording and rewrite your notes to highlight, sequence and clarify. Use a variety of colors to differentiate complete thoughts and to make prominent the most important ideas and facts. Also, with a recording you can control the pace that the course is delivered.

The Whole Story
Try and create general concepts that cover and/or integrate the details. You are a conceptual thinker, always trying to find new options. You must see the big picture before your mind can absorb the facts. You try to connect even the smallest details into a comprehensive whole. When you find yourself shutting down during the memorization process, try to think of the larger concept and how all the little pieces fit together to create the story behind the facts.

Too Many Facts
Sometimes, you can become overwhelmed if the course content appears to be overly detail oriented and dry. Frustration and a sense of dread can result if you perceive pressure to absorb too many new pieces of information at one time. If you find yourself in this learning situation, take notes in an outline form, leaving lots of space to fill in more details when recopying class notes. From the outline, and other supplemental course materials (syllabi, handouts, text materials) create a multicolored flow chart or a mind map of general concepts that then integrates the details of all the material being presented. Seek out as many contrasting graphical materials as possible. This will help to create a visual representation of what is being studied.

What's This Procrastination Thing?
Yes, you love to procrastinate. Yes, sometimes it gets you in trouble. But, believe it or not, you need it. Here's why. If you finish a written assignment a week in advance, you'll probably come up with another great idea for it after you have turned it in. So, you should wait until the last minute to pass it in. However, have the research, facts and basic assumptions written and/or outlined on paper. Then, you can move them around to quickly fill in what's behind the latest option or whole thought.
Working Style Tips

**Wandering Allowed**
Schedule study time when you are most alert. When you find your mind is wandering, it is a clear sign to take a break. Allow yourself the time to explore other thoughts and activities before proceeding. You will return refreshed and inspired. Short study intervals over an extended period of time work best for you.

You like to look towards the future and are prone to put off doing things that you don't like. If there are undesirable sections in a textbook, it might help to skip ahead to the chapters that you find interesting. Then return to the section that is necessary for the moment (i.e., do chapter three before doing one and two). Your mind will integrate the various timelines and information quite well.

**Seeing the Results**
Keep a personal record of your test scores to visibly demonstrate improvement over time. This will help you stay focused and motivated.
Excite Learning Tips

Talk Your Way to Success
You love to be challenged and successful. It makes you feel great and increases your positive self worth. In most situations, you succeed by talking to and networking with others. Interaction is your first name and creativity is your last name.

In most educational and/or teaching situations, however, self-expression and creativity are not the key elements to success. Listening, memorizing and focusing on the learning tasks at hand are essential, yet not activities where you like to spend your time or energy.

Your Initial Choice Means Greater Successes!
Let's begin at the most important place, "the beginning." If it's at all possible, choose teachers whose styles are similar to yours. In other words, they love classroom interaction, expressing themselves and their material with an infectious enthusiasm and creativity. They are constantly giving visual and auditory examples such as personal anecdotes or directed stories that weave the facts and theories into an understandable whole, one that is so compelling you rarely forget and misunderstand.

Choice Isn't Everything
If you don't have a teacher whose style is similar to yours, then you'll have to generate your own visual/auditory examples, sidebars and stories to trigger your personal memory and understanding paths. You can do this by asking the teacher for some personal anecdotes, related stories or visual representations (graphs, diagrams, flow charts, mind maps, etc.) that will provide another slant to understand the whole topic and its related facts. Also, you can have discussions after class with other classmates and get them to relate class or reading material in personal or anecdotal ways.

You can also find the smartest students in the class and form a support/study group that meets regularly to share visual and auditory information/notes. Thus, you're not alone in deciding what's important to learn and in creating your own sidebars to stimulate memory and understanding. Be aware, however, of style differences. While you enjoy the process of discussing and relating the material, others prefer to just get the information and move on. Be sure that everyone is aware of this when the group forms, and develop some ground rules that will enable everyone to get what they need out of the group meetings. Also, make sure there are no more than four people in the group because anything larger will break up into smaller "chat" groups and waste time.

Is This What You Said?
Whether it's in class with the teacher or after class with classmates, it's important for you to ask questions and restate in your own words what you just heard and understood. Yes, it may seem a little awkward or even embarrassing at first, but restating in your own words is how you learn best. If you can't identify with it and personalize it, you may have difficulty learning the information.

The Third Ear Is For Accuracy
Unless you're already very disciplined, recording the lectures is important because you have a tendency to get carried away with what's being explained and take incomplete notes. A recording gives you the opportunity to listen for understanding and move with the flow of the presentation. It also allows you to copy what's being written on the board or being presented visually without worrying that you might miss what's being said. After two or three classes
you can recopy your classroom notes and use the recording to refresh your memory, add missed notes or reorganize the information.

**The Eyes Have It**
Use diagrams, flow charts, pictures, mind maps or other visuals to reinforce what you heard in class. This will enable you to memorize and keep the information in a sequential order, understanding where everything fits into the whole. Always copy everything on the board in writing, on a computer or using a camera. In your reviews, which need to be scheduled after no more than three classes, you should recopy your class notes that include the visuals from the board or classroom presentations.

**Theme Song: "Procrastination..."**
You do procrastinate, particularly with written assignments or homework. When it comes to written assignments or papers of any length, you produce the best work when you procrastinate. What! Why's that? If you finish a paper or project too early, you'll subsequently discover a better idea or solution and need to redo the work. So, waiting until the last minute saves you from rewriting it over again. But, remember, all the research and information needs to be gathered, organized and written concisely so that you easily and quickly can string it together using your new thought patterns.

Warning: For most homework or non-written assignments, you need to discipline yourself to do it immediately, if not sooner.

**You've Heard This Before, But...**
Here are some very important ways for you to insure successful learning. Yes, you've heard them over and over in your life, but do you consistently do them to assure your success?

- Be punctual for classes
- Turn assignments in on time
- Be prepared for classes. That means doing the reading and preparatory assignments ahead of time, rather than scrambling after the fact
- Establish a constant ("constant" is the key) rhythm to your class reviews. Make a habit of rewriting your notes
- Listen to what's being said, take it in and then, understand it before you respond

**Tips You May Not Have Heard Before**
- Sit at the front of the class so you're not visually distracted by others.
- Real learning for you is experiential and personal. Take the time to personalize and experience as much of what is being taught as possible. Don't shortchange the U in your learning.
- Remember to ask questions if you don't understand what's being taught. Then, and this is very important, restate immediately what was communicated to you in your own words. This latter personalization reinforces and solidifies what you've just learned.
- If you're becoming negative about the class or the teacher, check to see if you're following the previous suggestions. More than likely you are behind or out of your scheduled study rhythms. Focus on your learning and not so much on your social life. Success in learning will retrieve your wonderful PMA (Positive Mental Attitude).
- Make your "have to's" into what they really are, "want to's"—you want to be successful.
Examining Learning Tips

In Almost Every School Setting, You're Lucky to Be You
Traditional learning and teaching are tailored to your style, enabling success in most classrooms. You have little need to adapt to a teacher's style, as most organize their lectures and teach in a way that is very familiar to you. Most classroom learning and studying is effortless for you.

Learning can become an effort when you have a teacher who is disorganized or a too anecdotal. Then, you have to fight being bored and critical. Sometimes, it pays to be patient instead of intellectually arrogant with certain types of "creative teachers," those who wander off the topic or become too personal with their presentations.

Your Middle Names Are "Logical" and "Factual"
You have a natural bent for being logical and factual. In fact, you really enjoy it! "B" follows "A", then its followed by "C," … Everything has its place and its appropriate time. The more facts that you can add to your rationale, the better you feel. Fortunately for you, most curriculums are built upon a logical and factual foundation. Be sure to outline your notes after every class and every chapter that you read.

Minding the Details and Putting Them in Their Right Places
Everything has its place until proven otherwise. You love to categorize facts and organize them into rational outlines. Once they're in this form, you can easily memorize them. Use outlines from your books and class notes to review, categorize facts and study for tests. You may find it helpful to start with a full outline, then create additional outlines with fewer and fewer levels of details, requiring you to fill in the missing information as you study. When you have teachers who demand more critical and creative thinking on their tests or in your papers, you need to anticipate what type of questions those might be and form some outline answers when studying.

Know What You Want Before Signing Up for a Class
You need the best teacher in a particular subject to challenge you and meet your learning expectations. The teachers you choose need to be very knowledgeable and serious about their profession. You should set your goals immediately once you understand the level at which the material will be presented, as well as what the teacher will expect.

Some Simple, But Very Important Tips
The best place for you to sit in a class is off to the side and about one half-way back. From this perspective you can easily observe the teacher, presentations, board and other students.

In classes where blackboard notes or presentations are mostly visually/graphically oriented, a recorder is very useful to track the conversations while you are copying the presentations. Thus, when you review, you can add the verbal parts of the class to the visuals in a more exacting outline.

It is important for you to know the brightest and most articulate students in case you're absent from class and need notes, or if you want to join a study group.
Execute Learning Tips

Let's Be Practical and Successful
- Set attainable objectives for mastering the course material so that you can be successful in class and in your overall goals.
- Enroll in classes and tracks that are going to enable you to meet your overall objectives quickly and successfully.

It's Your Choice!
- Choose teachers who are no no-nonsense, pragmatic and goal oriented.
- If you get a teacher who is not down-to-earth or organized, form a study group with the smartest students in the class to share reading and class notes each week.
- Have various students in your study group ask specific, practical questions to better organize the group's sharing of material and assist in studying for tests.
- If there is any dead wood in the study group, find a way to get rid of them.

Stay on Top
- Stay disciplined and do not fall behind, particularly when the teacher or a particular presentation seems to wander.
- Not only should you read materials in advance of the class, but you should read beyond what is required to have a place to practically position the material for understanding once it is presented.
- Ask questions and voice comments and answers immediately.

Note This!
- Whenever possible, take class and reading notes in bullet points.
- Copy and keep all notes so they are direct and simple to understand.
- Leave enough room in the margins so you can add any other important notes.
- Categorize the notes in a rational and organized manner that enables you to make sense of the information.

Always Be Chunky
- These organized chunks of knowledge are the core categories that you easily can use to memorize; use them to study for upcoming tests.
- Be sure that these bullets assist you in attending to results, consequences and bottom lines of both the course and your overall objectives.

Power and Success Are for Those Who Are Not Afraid to Work for Them
- Stay focused on success and the bottom line when others seem to wander.
- Do all the extra credit work you can. It may be the difference in breaking the class curve at the end of the course.
- Remember! Make a successful and positive impression immediately. If there is any question about future work or grades, the successful impression carries over to make results more positive.
Balanced Learning Tips

A Unique and Successful Potpourri of Styles
Traditional learning and teaching are tailored to your unique combination of all styles. However, no matter what the teaching style, you can adapt and flourish because most teachers teach and organize their lectures in a way very familiar to you. With teachers who are incompetent or waste time, however, your patience, not your potential for success, is constantly being tested.

Know What You Want Before Signing Up for a Class
You need the best teacher in a particular subject to challenge you and meet your learning expectations. The teacher's style doesn't matter because you can relate to and understand all teaching styles. This holds true for classmates and study-mates as well. You should set your goals immediately once you understand the level at which the material will be presented, as well as what the teacher will expect.

Your Three Names Are “Creative,” “Logical,” and “Factual”
You have a natural bent for being creative, logical and factual. In fact, you really enjoy it! "B" follows "A," then is followed by "C," … Everything has its place and its appropriate time. The more facts that you can add to your rationale, the better you feel. Fortunately for you, most curriculums are built upon a logical and factual foundation. Be sure to outline your notes after every class and every chapter that you read.

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Everything has its place until proven otherwise. You love to categorize facts and organize them into rational outlines. Once they're in this form, you can easily memorize them. Use outlines from your books and class notes to review, categorize facts and study for tests. When you have teachers who demand more critical and creative thinking on their tests or in your papers, you need to anticipate what type of questions those might be and form some outline answers when studying.

Some Simple, But Very Important Tips
Because of your adaptable style and excellent focus on learning, you can sit anywhere in a classroom and do well. However, the best place for you to sit is off to the side and about one halfway back. From this perspective you can easily observe the teacher, presentations, board and other students. In classes where blackboard notes or presentations are mostly visually/graphically oriented, a recorder is very useful to track the conversations while you are copying the presentations. Thus, when you review, you can add the verbal parts of the class to the visuals in a more exacting outline.

Very important: It is important for you to know the brightest and most articulate students in case you're absent from class and need notes, or if you want to join a study group.