

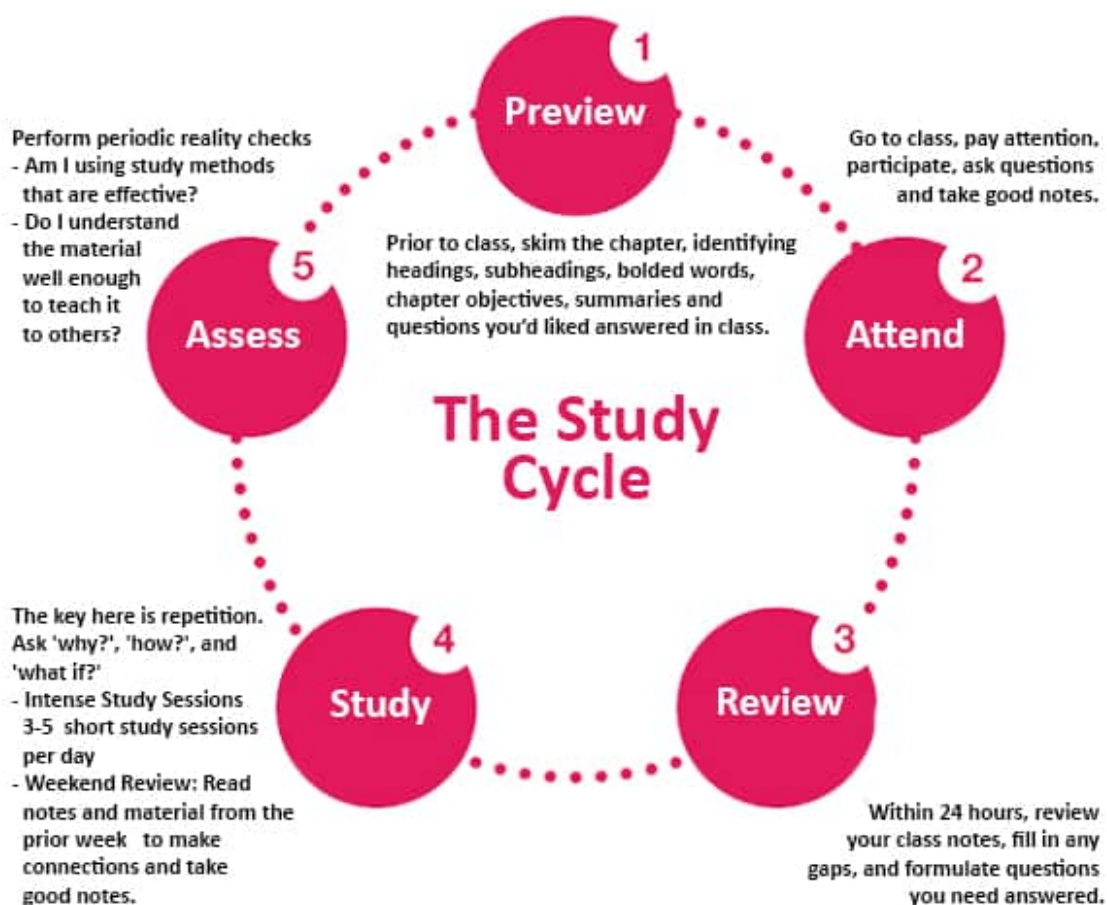
Active Learning Techniques to Engage Students

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Active Learning Technique: The Study Cycle

Explanation: The study cycle is a 5-step approach to learning designed to help students become more efficient learners. It works the way your brain learns best. It reinforces new content and builds confidence. The study cycle can be easily adapted to any coursework. The five steps of the



Student Application: Study Plan for a Monday, Wednesday, Friday Course

Beginning on Sunday, you should prepare for the lecture by previewing the current chapter (ex. Chapter 1). You can read the chapter, skim the chapter, review the objectives, take notes and write any questions you may want answered in class. On Monday, attend class, take notes and ask any questions that you may have. After class, review the notes, fill-in anything you missed,



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and re-read the chapter. On Tuesday, again review what was taught in class on Monday and preview the next sections of notes/chapter that will be discussed in class on Wednesday. Attend class on Wednesday, take notes and ask any questions you may have. After class, review the notes, fill-in anything you missed, and re-read the chapter. On Thursday, again review what was taught in class on Wednesday and preview the next sections of notes/chapter that will be discussed in class on Friday. Attend class on Friday, take notes and ask any questions that you may have. After class, review the notes, fill-in anything you missed, and re-read the chapter. On Saturday, review what was taught in class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Sunday, again review the notes from the whole week and preview the next sections of notes/chapter that will be discussed in class on the following Monday.

Assessment of Participation

At least once a semester, I try to assess the students' participation in using the study cycle. Usually, for the chapter following the midterm, I give a quiz each class session prior to the exam on the chapter. For example, on Monday I lecture on part 1 of Chapter 9, provide the study guide for the chapter, and tell students to be sure to know and understand the information discussed in class. On Wednesday, at the beginning of class, students are given a quiz on part 1 of Chapter 9 to determine if they studied. Then, I lecture on Part 2 of Chapter 9 and remind students to study the information. On Friday, at the beginning of class, students are given a quiz on Part 2 of Chapter 9 to determine if they studied. Then, I lecture on Part 3 of Chapter 9 and remind students to study the information. On the following Monday, at the beginning of class, students are given a quiz on part 3 of Chapter 9 to determine if they studied. Then, I review Chapter 9 and remind students to study the information discussed and the quizzes for the exam on the coming Wednesday. On Wednesday, students are given an open-ended exam that consists of 80% of the questions from the 3 quizzes. Therefore, if students studied as they were instructed, each student should at least earn a grade of "B" on the Chapter 9 exam. While this is a lot of work to grade 3 sets of quizzes and an open-ended exam, I believe it teaches the students the importance of studying and allows them the chance to earn a high grade.