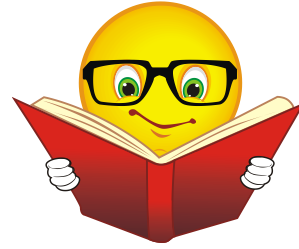




Douglas College
Douglas College Learning Centre



Tips for Success in Biology

Before class:

- Read the material that the teacher will be covering - objectives and explanations.
 - *Not only will this get you studying proactively, but it will also make the lecture make much more sense.*

During Class:

- Sit in the front
- Stay awake
- Ask questions
 - *Interacting with the material that is being taught and being an active learner helps you understand and remember.*
- Take notes in colour
 - Use different colours for titles, subtitles, examples and drawings. *This will assist you in memorizing and make your notes much easier to look at when you review.*
- Have a section to write in possible exam questions and topics that the teacher emphasizes
 - Your margins can be a great place for this!



After Class:

- Use your break to do a 5 minute flash review - *take five minutes to read through the notes you have written down.*
 - *A quick 5-minute review makes you remember a lot more from the lecture. It also gives you the opportunity to synthesize what you have learnt in class and to fill in any information you did not get a chance to write during the class.*



During study time:

- Organize material into charts
 - See Learning Centre handouts **SP6.10** or **SP6.20** for examples of using charts with Biology content.
- Make concept maps
 - *This helps you to connect ideas, which biology emphasizes; it also allows you to keep all of your notes on less paper for easier review.*
 - See handouts **RS5.20** and **RS6.40**
- Make Flash Cards
 - *These are easy to take with you to study on the bus and you can remove the ones you know to make review progressively easier.*
- Give Yourself Post-It Note Quizzes
 - For objectives that you are having difficulty with, make up questions on sticky notes with answers on the back that you can post around your house (on mirrors, on your study table, beside your bed) so that you can practice these difficult objectives regularly.
- Have review sessions with a friend or group
 - *It's okay to have a laugh, it assists you in memorizing.*
 - See handout **RS6.60**
- Use mnemonics
 - *This is very useful for remembering lists (eg. Phylum names, role of protein).*
 - See handout **RS9.21**
- Make a story
 - *There are several longer processes in biology such as the route of blood, It is easier to remember these as a story like "The Magic School Bus" has done for us in the past.*



Other Useful Handouts from our Learning Center:

- RS6.10 Essay Examinations
- RS6.20 Exam Preparation and Memory
- RS7.10 Let Go of Test Anxiety
- RS7.21 Strategies for Writing Multiple Choice Exams
- RS9.60 Science Study Skills: A Tutor's Perspective

For more great study techniques check out our Learning Center multimedia tutorial page:

Douglas College Home > Student Services > Learning Centre > Multimedia Tutorials