

Active vs. Passive Studying

Active Studying

Active study strategies take you to the next level of engagement. When studying actively, you are interacting with the material and forming connections. You're **applying** what you are learning in personal ways. An example of this is creating your own study guide.

Passive Studying

Passive study strategies scratches the surface level of material. This type of studying can be a first pass to glean the scope and may be strongest for simple **memorization**. An example of this is re-reading your notes.

Study Materials	Active Study Strategies	Personal Example(s)
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create your own study guide Create flashcards to quiz yourself Identify main points and explain in your own words Concept mapping Quiz back and forth with a study partner 	•
Reading materials (textbooks, articles, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skim the reading to get the scope and main points Annotate as you read Write questions before, during, and after reading about what you knew, learned, & want to know Summarize sections in your own words 	•
Practice Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work problems without using your notes Treat them like a test, create a similar environment with time limits 	•
Powerpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create handwritten flashcards Print out powerpoint before class and write notes in margins including key points, summaries, and questions 	•

Center for Learning in Lower Moyer Hall n.d. *Active Study Strategies*. Seattle Pacific University. <https://spu.edu/-/media/administration/center-for-learning/documents/20-21/Active-Study-Strategies.ashx>



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