

History Study Skills, Strategies, and Tips

Strategies:

1. Flash Cards – This is a simple memorization strategy. On the front of the flash card you want to write the person, place, event, etc. On the back you want to write the definition and significance of that person, place, event, etc.

- a. Example: Front- George Washington. Back- General of the Continental army during the American Revolution. Significant because he became the first president of the United States under the Constitution.

2. Time line – History can be very confusing with many different events going on. Time lines are a great way to organize the information. On the front of a piece of paper create a time line for the period you are studying. As you learn more events or read through a chapter, add these events to your time line. On the back, create a list of the events you have placed on the front, but explain them in further detail.

3. Outline – Outlines are a great way to get organized and prepared for an essay. These can be done to prepare for an essay exam or during the exam itself to organize thoughts. You always want to begin the essay with an introduction and end with a conclusion. In the body paragraphs, attempt to use flash cards to fill in your information.

4. Highlighting information – Reading can be very confusing as there are many people and events that you are unfamiliar with. Highlighting can be a simple way to organize the reading. Create a color key like the one below to help you stay on track and remember new information.

- a. RED – Can be used for new/important people
- b. Green – Can be used to highlight important events.
- c. Blue – Can be used to highlight relevant ideas and information.

5. Focus on the different THEMES in History - Learning common themes in history helps to relate different time periods together. Look for important people and events in relation to their significance to the time period. Ask yourself: How are the people and events tied together with others?

6. Read and Read Often - Read the assigned readings so that you can fill in gaps from what was covered in class, be prepared for what will be covered, and clarify your understanding of the concepts. Familiarize yourself with primary sources (journals, logs, interviews, etc.) and use them often.

7. Mnemonic Devices - Mnemonic devices are a series of letters or sentences that help you to remember key information. The more ridiculous your sentence, the better you'll remember it.

- a. The capital of Missouri is Jefferson City. - Example: Thomas JEFFERSON was a MISerable guy because he lived in a CITY with no lights.

Study Skills and Tips:

1. The issue many students run into when they first get to college is time management. There are many new activities and people to interact with which puts homework on the back burner. Create a schedule that sets a specific time every day for homework and studying.
2. Your college professors will have office hours; USE THEM! These office hours were created to help students better understand the information. This will also allow you to get to know your professor better which can help when it comes time to ask for a reference.
3. Study groups can be a wonderful asset. Find other students in your class and create a study group. Each student has their own specialty with the information and everyone can fill in any gaps others have in their notes.
4. Look online for resources from the book maker. Many times companies have a plethora of resources that go untouched and can be extremely helpful.
5. GO TO THE LIBRARY! Librarians will be extremely helpful when it comes to doing research and finding sources.
6. Pay attention to what your teacher spends the most time on in class because these are great essay questions, and at the very least, they will be on the test!
7. Always prepare more research than what you think you might need. Practice your research and writing skills so that you become a more effective and informed student. Focus on getting quality research over quantity; NO FLUFF!