SDV 100-083A: Week 2 – Assignment: Classroom Success Assignment

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Describe the reading strategy and note-taking style that feels most comfortable to you, in what classes you’ve used that format, how effective your notes are for tests, and whether you vary your note-taking format. If you get distracted, what do you do to draw your attention back to your course work? Reflect on your studying strengths and weaknesses. Describe your feelings about studying prior to completing this week's activities and your feelings after completing this week's activities. Think about past mistakes you have made on tests.

How will the strategies you learned in this section help you improve your test taking?

How do these strategies relate to your learning style?

Reading has always been difficult for me. My native language is written right to left so training my eyes to move from left to right was the first challenge that I had to deal with. Prior to reading chapter 7 I was convinced that I suffer from some sort of reading disability. Now I understand that some of the things that hinder my riding speed are just bad habits. Perhaps because I had to function in society while learning English and since every mistake was (if only in my mind) a costly one I have assigned a lower priority to reading. I initially put all of my attention into listening comprehension and proper speaking. After a while I ended up with a large vocabulary of words that I knew but could not write. Twenty years later, I still remember the moment that I found out “nevertheless” is correct and “never the less” is wrong! This has caused a sense of inferiority causing me not to trust myself and perhaps to compensate I have developed the bad habit of pronouncing the words in my head and reread sentences.

This information has been very valuable and I aim to use SQ3R as my default strategy. I find that OK5R would be too cumbersome but it will certainly be useful when studying science material. Scanning the chapter heading looking for the question I need to get answered and reading toward that goal will make me a more efficient answer hunter. What I hope is that be becoming a more efficient reader I actually read more. And hopefully soon I can read just for the pleasure of it.

Note taking has been another source of discomfort. Jotting down misspelled words in bad hand writing and trying to make sense of them later has been my only experience.

I found section titled “Preparing to Listen” in chapter eight very helpful. Perhaps the best strategy for me will be to always try and stay ahead of the class as much as possible. Reviewing the chapters ahead of time and formulating the important concepts in a T system may be my best bet. I’d have my questions and key phrases prepared before I get to the lecture allowing me to spend more time following the lecture and less time writing notes.

I know now that I can’t take my understanding of a new concept in the classroom for granted. My style of learning dictates that I need to implement that new concept and work through all the “gotcha” scenarios before I can be confident that I have learned it.

I have to be proactive in preparation for a class or lecture before attending it so I can take better notes.

I have to review the notes I have taken as quickly as possible to I can write down more detail replacing all the shorthand and catch phrases.

I have to allow more time for reading assignments and use the SQ3R system to keep myself focused.