Strong Passwords

I have been using strong passwords since I took my first communications tech class in high school. I had a great teacher who taught us the importance of good strong passwords, and how to make them easy to remember. Much like the article explains he taught us to take a sentence, favorite song lyric, phrase, or poem excerpt and convert the first letters of each word within those word groupings to a single word. Once you do that you can convert alpha beta characters to symbols and numbers or add in some capitol letters as well. By following these simple steps you create a password that is very hard to crack and easy to remember for you because it’s built from a phrase you know.

I myself use more of a scale system for judging how strong my password should be based on the website I’m visiting or context of use of the password. If I’m using an online store, database, or data storage and backup site; I’ll make a really tough password for those accounts. But if it’s a email that I use for junk (like computer product updates, game console news, or program promotions) or say MySpace or Face Book I just think of a stupid or random phrase and throw in some symbols and numbers. For instance you could use schism or ghost poop, and turn it into sch!$M and g40$t P0op. It really depends on what information you feel should be protected when visiting a certain website or logging on to a school network. I feel it is important to remember the basic concepts the article covers; like never using a your name and birthday for a password, using a pattern of characters, the same characters repeated, or using a screen name or login name as the password.