

Individual Activity - ENB review and refinement with help from the mentors

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Activity Kind

Individual Activity

Purpose

Taking effective notes is a skill that takes time and practice to develop. Most students have developed short-term memory skills that support preparation for final exams, but seldom produce long-term memories¹. Writing out notes in your own words (not copying the words of others) and explaining why the items are important and/or meaningful tends to build long lasting memories and connections.

Having someone review your notebook writing, asking you questions, and giving you feedback tends to open you to ways of improving what you write and the probability that you will remember it, so it can be of use to you in the future.

Pre-requisite

Prior to doing this activity, you must:

- Have you ENB available for review
- Be ready to receive feedback without taking the words as insults or personal criticism. It is hard to give feedback, especially when there is evidence of serious effort and yet the results are not yet adequate.

Tasking

Study the list of activities for the day and check to see that each activity has caused you to capture notes. Consider the following questions:

1. Is there evidence in or with each item that suggests the student followed the specified process and actually did the work required? If not, why not try to add compelling evidence now?
2. Are the words copied from some other source with or without a citation? If the words are those of others, a citation must be provided. If the words are in your notes and they are from another, why not replace those words with a summarization of the key concepts, in your own words, with an explanation of why you believe this source has something important to contribute and ensure there is a solid reference to the work, so you can find it again?
3. Is there nothing captured for the item? Reflect on what happened and what you believe the purpose of the activity was, if you don't believe in the purpose words provided to you. With that in mind, now describe the key concepts and why they might be useful in the future.

When a mentor comes to visit you, be prepared to show what you have produced, explain what your plans are to improve the notes, be open to the mentor's feedback, and take good notes to help you remember what was said, especially if the feedback causes an emotional response. (It is hard to think rationally when that happens, so focus on writing the notes now and defer reacting until later when you are alone, so you do not do or say something you will regret.

¹ The noted Programming Languages and Compiler construction professor, William M. Waite, noted that an end of semester final examination does not really provide us with much information about what each student has actually learned. He stated that it would be much better to wait two to three years and then give the exam. You would then know what really has been learned.

Deliverable

The only deliverable you need to submit for this activity is your refined ENB as filled out as described above.

Submission

You are expected to submit your ENB with notes from this session by the specified deadline.