

# Strategy Project

This assignment will help you see the connections between what you're learning in your first-year seminar and your other courses. In this project, you will apply the strategies and hints that we've learned in seminar to preparing for a test in another class. The test you select should be between Sept. 30 and Oct. 30, and should be a test that requires you to study. To complete the strategy project, you will complete and submit a variety of test preparation strategies along with written reflections about your experience. You will submit these materials as noted below. All papers should be double-spaced, with 12-point font.

## Strategy Project Timeline:

**Contract (5 points).** List the details of your chosen test, choose the strategies you plan to use, and mark the necessary due dates. We will meet briefly in class to ensure your chosen test and strategies are appropriate. Please bring the printed and signed contract to class on **[date]**. **If you need to make changes to your contract after this meeting, please notify me. No changes may be made after Week 5 of the semester.**

---

**Pre-Project Survey (5 points).** This portion of the project will require you to take the MSLQ survey or complete an alternative assignment in accordance with IRB policy (see link for details). Your instructor will only grade the survey for completion, not for how you answered the questions.

**Pre-Project Reflection (25 points).** Please reflect on your current habits in a 2-3 page essay. When writing your essay, please consider the following questions:

- What do you feel are your strengths when it comes to college success?
- What do you feel are your weaknesses when it comes to college success?
- What are you most worried about when it comes to college studying and learning?
- What are your favorite study strategies, and why? Where did you learn these strategies?
- Is there anything you'd like to improve this semester that could lead you to be a successful college student?

Submit the essay via the Assignments Tool on D2L. The survey and reflection must be completed by **[date]**.

---

**Professor Interaction (15 points).** Attend office hours or a drop-in session with the instructor of the course you've chosen for the project and write a one- or two-paragraph description of the questions you asked, what you learned, and why attending office hours might be helpful. A list of suggested questions is below, but please feel free to add your own:

- What is the format of the upcoming test?
- What do you think are the best ways to study for this test?
- What do you think differentiates the most successful students in your class from the least successful students?
- What do you like most about being in academics?
- Do you conduct research? If so, what is it about?

Submit this via the D2L Assignments Tool by **the due date indicated on your contract**.

**Plan of Study (15 points).** Using the suggestions from your professor interaction as well as what you've learned in first-year seminar, please outline your plan for studying for this test. You should create a detailed study schedule that describes what you will do and when you will do it, demonstrating your plan to spread out your studying over at least two weeks, using a variety of active learning strategies. This outline should be created and submitted via the D2L Assignments Tool **by the due date indicated on your contract**.

---

**Metacognitive Study Strategies (60 points).** These study strategies should be submitted **in one folder or binder in class on the date indicated on your contract**. Please make sure everything is clearly labeled, and that your signed contract is in the front of the folder. You must choose at least four of these strategies, one of which must be active notetaking or active reading. Please choose your strategies carefully, taking into consideration the course, the professor, and the type of test.

**Choose at least one:**

- **Active Notetaking.** Use the Cornell or a modified Cornell method to take notes in your chosen class for at least two weeks during the period leading up to your test, making sure to set aside space for self-quizzing and daily summaries. Submit these notes (or a copy of these notes) in your folder.
- **Active Reading.** Preview and annotate all textbook chapters associated with this test, paying special attention to the visual aids, vocabulary, and concepts. Summarize these annotations by distilling all important information into a one-page study sheet. Copy a 4-page sample of your annotations and include it and your one-page study sheet in your folder.

**Choose three (or two, if you chose both strategies above):**

- **Complete Practice Problems** from an outside source. This is a good strategy for math, physics, chemistry, and computer science courses.
  - **Quiz Yourself** by creating your own test.
  - **Create Flashcards.** These flashcards must include explanations of the topic in your own words as well as examples. You must create at least fifteen flashcards.
  - **Create a Concept Map.**
  - **Meet with a study group** and describe your experience in 1-2 paragraphs.
  - **Attend a tutoring session** and describe your experience in 1-2 paragraphs.
  - **Other strategies?** Propose a strategy that is appropriate to your course in consultation with your instructor.
- 

**Post-Project Survey (5 points).** Complete the MSLQ survey (found at this link: [\[link will be active\]](#)) or complete an alternative assignment in accordance with IRB policy (see link for details). Again, your instructor will only grade the survey for completion, not for how you answered the questions.

**Post-Project Reflection (20 points).** After you take your test but before you receive it back, please estimate the grade you think you received. Once you receive your feedback, please write a reflection paper 2-3 pages in length about your experiences with the strategy project. In particular, please reflect on which elements of the project you think helped and which did not. Please also reflect on the grade you received, whether it was an improvement over your last grade (list both grades), and whether it matched what you thought you'd receive. Also address whether or not your study strategies have changed since you've been in college. Submit your reflection paper via the D2L Assignments Tool.

This assignment was updated on 5/16/17 and is adapted from an earlier version published in Steiner, H.H. (2016). The strategy project: Promoting self-regulated learning through an authentic assignment. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* 28 (2), 271-282. Please contact [hsteiner@kennesaw.edu](mailto:hsteiner@kennesaw.edu) for more information about this assignment.

The survey and reflection must be completed by the **date indicated on your contract**.

---

**Strategy Project Presentation--IF REQUIRED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (15 points).** Please plan to share your Strategy Project with fellow students in an informal presentation of about 10 minutes in length on **Nov. 28 or 30**. You may use the doc cam to show elements of your project. This is a great chance for other students to learn strategies that may be useful to them in the future. In particular, your fellow students would like to know: What is your course like? Was the professor receptive to your questions? What elements of the Strategy Project worked in your course?

# Strategy Project Contract

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Course you will use for this project \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Test (between 9/30 and 10/30): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to choose the following study strategies for my project. Please choose at least four.

- Active Notetaking**                      AND/OR                       **Active Reading**
- Complete Practice Problems**
- Quiz Yourself**
- Create Flashcards**
- Create a Concept Map**
- Meet with a study group**
- Attend a tutoring session**
- Other (Please Describe):**

I understand that my due dates for this project are the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Contract
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-Reflection Paper and Survey
- \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Interaction (three weeks prior to test)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plan of Study (two weeks prior to test)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Active Notetaking (next KSU 1101 class meeting after your test day)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Active Reading (next KSU 1101 class meeting after your test day)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Test Preparation Strategies (next KSU 1101 class meeting after your test day)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post-Reflection Paper and Survey (two weeks after your test day)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Presentation (if required by instructor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Instructor Signature