

# Selecting the Right Strategies to Help You Learn

There are many different **strategies** that you can apply to your learning, but knowing what strategy to use and when to use it is critical. When selecting a strategy to support you in your learning, it's important to think about a couple of things. First, you need to know the purpose of your learning. Why are you doing what you are doing? When you know the purpose, it can help you better select appropriate learning strategies. For example, if you know that you are going to be conducting an experiment in your science class, then planning for the task is an effective strategy to select. It is critical for you to be aware of the steps of the experiment, have the supplies and resources that you need, and know the criteria to carry out each step in the experiment. Taking a moment to plan for the task, either individually or with a group of your peers, will help ensure the experiment is carried out safely and effectively.



**Directions:** Take a moment to look through the strategies below. Think about your understanding of each strategy and what it looks like in your learning. Rate each strategy using the following scale:

- 1** I fully understand this strategy and know how to apply it in my learning.
- 2** I know what this strategy is, but I'm not sure how to use it in my learning.
- 3** I have seen or heard of this strategy before, but I'm not sure what it means or how to use it in my learning.
- 4** This is a new strategy for me. I don't know what that looks like.

___ Note-taking	___ Annotating	___ Self-questioning
___ Outlining	___ Repeated reading	___ Self-monitoring
___ Graphic organizers	___ Summarizing	___ Planning for the task
___ Concept mapping	___ Organizing notes	___ Transforming information
___ Synthesizing information	___ Deconstructing information	___ Studying

Let's look at a couple of other examples of learning experiences and determine a strategy that could help support it.



## Matching Strategies with Learning Tasks

**Directions:** Take a moment to read the description of each sample learning task. Then, in the space provided, write your thoughts about which strategy may be effective and why.

**1**

### Sample Learning Task 1:

The bell just rang for social studies class to begin, and your teacher lets you know that in today's lesson you will be exploring all the different causes and effects of World War I. The teacher is going to give a fifteen-minute lecture providing background information about World War I, and then you will be responsible for reading two different primary sources about the war. There are a lot of details to remember that you will need later in order to determine and support your explanation for the causes and effects of World War I.

What might be an effective strategy to use for this learning task?

Why is it an effective strategy?

**2**

### Sample Learning Task 2:

For the past two days in class you have been learning about all the pieces included in an effective argumentative essay, and now you need to start thinking about the design of your own argumentative essay. You can choose from a few options of texts and topics to use for your essay, so you need to figure out how to get started. Before you turn in a final essay, you'll need to submit a rough draft to your teacher. You'll have class time to work on this, but you'll also need to spend some time on this essay outside of class.

What might be an effective strategy to use for this learning task?

Why is it an effective strategy?

Now that you've taken a look at a couple of sample learning tasks, let's focus on what you are learning today and what strategies can support your learning.



## Learning Strategies Checklist

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Think about what you are learning today. Check the boxes that most closely reflect your learning task.

### Today your task entails...

<input type="checkbox"/> Writing an essay/paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Solving problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing ideas, concepts and/or characters
<input type="checkbox"/> Reading an article	<input type="checkbox"/> Giving a presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Creating a project
<input type="checkbox"/> Studying a novel	<input type="checkbox"/> Taking an assessment/ test/quiz	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating ideas, concepts and/or characters
<input type="checkbox"/> Conducting an experiment	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning a new concept or idea	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing a lab report
<input type="checkbox"/> Working (collaboratively) in a group	<input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing data	<input type="checkbox"/> Developing a timeline
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**Directions:** Look at the list of strategies below. Check at least one strategy that you will use to support you in what you are learning today.

### Learning Strategies

<input type="checkbox"/> Note-taking	<input type="checkbox"/> Annotating	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-questioning
<input type="checkbox"/> Outlining	<input type="checkbox"/> Repeated reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-monitoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic organizer	<input type="checkbox"/> Summarizing	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning for the task
<input type="checkbox"/> Concept mapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Transforming information
<input type="checkbox"/> Synthesizing information	<input type="checkbox"/> Deconstructing information	<input type="checkbox"/> Studying

***Did it  
Work?***



Take a moment to think about the strategy you used in your learning today. Why did you select this strategy? Do you think that it supported you in your learning? Why or why not?