

Study Strategies for Concept-based Tests

These strategies work best for classes and topics that discuss processes.

- The following is a method to help you learn a complicated process (ex. the steps of aerobic respiration). When you are comfortable with the first step, move on to the second step and so on.
 1. Draw, trace, or photocopy a picture of the process from your book (remove the labels). Write the vocabulary words that relate to the process on another sheet of paper. Practice writing the right term in the correct place on the picture.
 2. Try to label the picture without the terms in front of you.
 3. Look at the list of vocabulary words. Put the words in order and draw the picture. Color-code the different steps of the process.
 4. Take a blank sheet of paper and draw the picture from scratch, without any words in front of you. Label the picture you have drawn.
 5. Bonus: take a blank sheet of paper and draw the process backwards.

- Do the above process, but instead of drawing a picture, write a paragraph explaining the process.
 - You can also take all the parts of the process and put them on note cards. Then use the note cards to explain the process.
 - Or, you can buy Play-Doh and build a model of the process. (It doesn't really matter how you do this - but you need to take the process and break it down into smaller parts that you can understand and put together.)

- Explain what you learned in class to your roommate or family member. Ask them if they understand what you have explained. Pretend you are the instructor - how would you present the information?

- Also try:
 - Explaining the process aloud to yourself. Hearing it may help you remember.
 - Explain the process to a classmate and ask them for feedback.
 - Explain the process to your instructor. This way you can be sure that you didn't miss anything.

- There are many other good study strategies. Talk to your classmates, teacher or a study skills consultant if you want more ideas.