Wellness and Health Promotion
Student Health Services

80 Fifth Avenue, 3rd floor
NY, NY 10011

212.229.1671, option 4
wellness@newschool.edu

Active Learning[i]

Test yourself by putting a check next to the study methods you currently use:

1. _____ Write summaries in your own words of text or notes
2. _____ Write questions to summarize notes or text
3. _____ Make up note cards to summarize notes
4. _____ Develop a chart to organize material
5. _____ Construct possible quiz questions
6. _____ Recite out loud
7. _____ Teach the material to someone else
8. _____ Write in the margins of your text
9. _____ Read quietly
10. _____ Listen to tapes of a lecture
11. _____ Reread lecture/notes or a textbook chapter
12. _____ Recopy lecture notes
13. _____ Read someone else's lecture notes

Active versus Passive Learning

The first 8 methods listed are active learning methods. They engage you in an active way with the material you need to know and help you retain it for later use. If you currently use them, keep up the good work!!

Methods 9-13 are passive learning methods. If your use them alone, you will be less likely to retain the material you are working on. They can easily be turned into active learning methods.

Passive	Active
Reading notes or textbook quietly →	Prepare summary questions
Rereading notes before exam →	Quiz yourself from prepared questions
Rereading text before exam →	Annotate in margins to summarize main ideas
Memorizing definitions →	Recite out loud a sentence using term in context
Recopying notes →	Annotate from test & write questions to summarize notes
Reading someone else's notes →	Prepare outline from text and talk to instructor

[i] Reference: Loyola University Chicago, Learning Assistance, 2005

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