

Strategy Project

This assignment will help you put the information you learn in this course into action. You will choose one test in another course that you're currently taking and apply the strategies and hints that we've learned in this course to preparing for this test. This assignment will require you to submit each portion of the project to the associated D2L dropbox on a schedule determined by your test date. As part of your grade, you will also present your strategy project to the class.

Strategy Project Components:

1. **Contract (10 points).** Choose a test in another course that is not the first test given in that course, but one for which there is sufficient time for reflection after the test is returned (often the second test in the course). The strategy project will work best if you choose a high-stakes test that you anticipate will be challenging. Complete the "Strategy Project Contract" (below) by [date].
2. **Professor Interaction (20 points).** Make an appointment to meet with the professor of the course well before your chosen test for an interview and help session. Feel free to explain that you're there as part of a strategy project in another course. Please write a brief (1 page) description of your professor interaction and submit it to the dropbox at least two days before your test. A list of suggested questions is below, but please also 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 a college instructor?
 - Do you conduct research? If so, what is it about?
3. **Plan of Study (15 points).** Using the suggestions from your professor as well as what you've learned in our class, please outline your plan of study for this test. You should create a detailed study schedule that describes what you will do and when you will do it. Submit this to the dropbox two weeks before your test.
4. **Active Reading (10 points).** Preview and annotate all textbook chapters associated with this test. Upload a .pdf or .jpeg image of your annotations to the dropbox. If you do not have access to a scanner or camera, please make an appointment to show me your annotations. This portion of the project is due two days before your test.

5. **Active Notetaking (10 points).** Use the Cornell method to take notes during the entire pre-test period, making sure to set aside the left margin for self-quizzing. Upload a .pdf or .jpeg image of your notes to the dropbox. If you do not have access to a scanner or camera, please make an appointment to show me your notes. This portion of the project is due two days before your test.
6. **Additional Test Preparation Strategies (20 points).** Select at least two additional test preparation strategies (e.g., flashcards, concept maps, question generation, self-quizzing, etc.) that are appropriate for your course. Upload your completed strategies to the dropbox at least two days before your test.
7. **Written Metacognitive Reflection (40 points).** After you take your test but before you receive it back, please estimate the grade you think you received. When you receive your graded test, please write a reflection paper 3-5 pages in length about your experiences with the strategy project. In particular, please reflect on which elements of the project you think helped, how your strategies have changed, and whether you will study differently next time. Please also reflect on the grade you received, and whether it matched what you thought you'd receive. Please attach your completed Grade Improvement Scale (found below) to the end of this paper. Submit your reflection paper and scale to the dropbox by [date].
8. **Class Presentation (25 points).** Please plan to share your Strategy Project with fellow students in an informal presentation of 5-10 minutes in length. You may use the doc cam to show elements of your project. 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? What have you learned?

To summarize:

- Your contract that describes the test you will use for your project is due on [date].
- Complete the active reading, active note taking, professor interaction, plan of study, and test preparation strategies **before** your chosen test, following the schedule set up in your contract, and submit them to the associated dropboxes. After you have taken your test, but before you receive it back, estimate the grade you think you received.
- **After** you receive your test back, complete the written reflection and grade improvement scale, and prepare for your presentation.

Strategy Project Contract

Name _____

Course you will use for this project _____

Date of Test _____

Please check one:

_____ No modifications for the Strategy Project will be necessary for my test.

_____ I will need to modify the following Strategy Project requirements by substituting the following:

Due Dates:

_____ Contract

_____ Professor Interaction

_____ Plan of Study

_____ Active Reading, Notetaking, and Additional Strategies

_____ Written Reflection

_____ Class Presentation

Student Signature

Approved _____

Grade Improvement Scale

Name of course used for strategy project:

My grade on the first test in that course was _____.

My grade on the second test (for which I used the strategy project) was _____.

From the first test to the second test, my grade:

1	2	3	4	5
Decreased significantly (10% or more)	Decreased slightly (less than 10%)	Stayed the same	Increased slightly (less than 10%)	Increased significantly (10% or more)