Collaborative Learning Activities for Remote Study Groups

Study groups are a great opportunity to learn with and from other students. Use the Academic Success Center's Conducting Remote Study Groups webpage to get your group started. Remember to plan ahead for each study session by setting up needed technology, prepping any shared documents you might reference, and identifying and naming study activities. This prep work will help your group stay on track and make the most of your study session. Not sure what study activities to do as a group? Check out the ideas below for collaborative activities that work well when studying remotely.

Activities to develop understanding through naming, defining & identifying

- ☐ Identify the clearest and muddiest (most confusing) points for each concept from the past week. Then, clarify the muddy points!
- ☐ As a group, list concepts from the past week. Then, have each person choose a concept to teach to the group.
- ☐ Develop a list of key terms as a group; divide up to identify definitions, then come back together to share notes.
- ☐ Read a section of the textbook or watch a video and have each person describe it in their own words.
- ☐ Have one group member work through steps of a practice problem; have another group member explain each step aloud. Then switch.
- ☐ Have each person identify and share a real world example of a concept.
- ☐ Explain diagrams, processes, graphs or example problems aloud to each other.
- ☐ Fill in a table or matrix with key terms, definitions, examples, and hierarchies.
- ☐ On a shared document, combine notes to create a full outline of important topics from the past week.

Activities to apply knowledge through elaboration, connection & retrieval practice

- ☐ Make connections between concepts on a shared document: outline, concept map, Venn diagram, etc.
- ☐ Quiz each other using the book, homework, or study guide. Analyze the results! Where should your group focus more time and energy?
- ☐ Work individually on the same practice problem for a few minutes. Then, compare each person's answer and problem-solving process, and ask each other questions.
- ☐ Have each person teach a concept without notes. Listen carefully and help each other identify study areas to add depth to understanding.
- ☐ Write out steps in a process. For each step, have someone explain the rationale for the step and its position in the sequence.
- ☐ Have each person draw an important diagram or visual. Trade. Have the next person add detail and explain the visual.
- ☐ Have one person speak/write a sentence about a concept. Go around the group, with each person adding a new sentence to elaborate on the concept (e.g., definitions, examples).

Activities to demonstrate mastery through analysis, explanation & creation

- ☐ Have each person write or predict exam questions; trade questions and practice answering them.
- ☐ Create shared PPTs or quizzes. Put prompts on slides and answers in notes area. Mix up slides/questions from across weeks for cumulative practice.
- ☐ When answering questions, practice naming evidence and explaining why.
- ☐ After each practice question/flashcard, answer the question, "How do I know?"
- ☐ Don't just explain why an answer is correct; explain why other answers are incorrect.
- ☐ Look at problems/case studies from all angles, changing variables. Ask and try to answer "What would happen if...?"
- ☐ List key concepts. For each, identify 2 ways you could demonstrate full understanding. Then, do the activities to confirm understanding.
- ☐ Post-exam, list activities from past study sessions and evaluate effectiveness based on exam content and structure. Create a revised study plan for the next exam.

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