

Passive vs. Active Learners

Passive Learners

Passive learners are learners who, through no fault of their own, have been taught few or poor strategies for academic success. They might:

- think going to class and being on time are optional
- use classrooms as places to eat or to open social media
- engage in absent listening and not take careful notes in class
- dismiss previous learning before engaging in new learning
- underestimate the importance of learning how to read critically
- avoid asking questions even when they have them
- speed through homework without a thought to optimizing learning
- take shortcuts to completing assignments
- put off learning until the end of the day
- prefer to work in isolation
- find themselves unable to explain and teach others what they are learning

Active Learners

Active learners are passionate learners. They seek to make the most out of their college experience by learning how to learn and by putting their academic success at the heart of everything they do.

Would you like to learn how to set goals that are right for you? We can:

- help you learn how to prioritize your learning
- develop personalized daily, weekly, monthly, and whole-term objectives
- develop both course and learning skills goals
- use syllabi to develop study guides and plans for learning
- integrate both curricular and co-curricular activities

Would you like to learn pre-learning strategies to focus your learning? We can:

- help you to develop a growth mindset
- plan and prepare for learning
- understand and use pre-term learning strategies
- take learning cues from your professors
- utilize pre-class learning strategies
- anticipate the progress of courses and instructor expectations for learning

Would you like to make the most of each class? We can:

- teach you how to prepare for and be excited for class
- listen actively and with great engagement to lectures and class discussion
- utilize different methods for capturing course content
- ask questions in class
- employ methods for learning which correspond to different courses and disciplines

Would you like to know different ways to read texts and when to employ them? We can teach you:

- the value of pre-reading texts
- how and when to annotate or highlight texts
- to read to develop your critical reading skills
- to interpret literary and creative texts
- to read with clear and deep understanding

Would you like to become a better writer? We can teach you to:

- understand and utilize paper writing prompts
- understand and compose writings in different, often discipline-specific genres
- recognize and employ claim-based arguments
- develop compelling thesis statements
- understand and utilize appropriate evidentiary strategies
- cite paper sources with confidence
- improve the clarity and power of your writing

Would you like to know how to use homework to develop your learning? We can teach you:

- when, how, and where best to study
- the difference between studying and learning
- to make the most of your learning styles and preferences
- to recognize and employ different kinds of learning strategies
- to understand and utilize different kinds of learning cycles
- to use homework to develop and test your progress
- to solve problems in more than one way
- to connect abstract learning to concrete examples and uses

Would you like to know how to prepare for quizzes, tests, and final projects? We can show you to:

- make the most of your time

- use class notes and readings to make study guides
- use testing prompts to organize your responses
- demonstrate fully your knowledge of subjects
- anticipate quiz and test questions
- pace yourself through exams
- break up your studying to avoid cramming for exams

Would you like to enjoy the benefits of social learning? We can show you to:

- work successfully with your professors
- make the most of Red Room and other CTL services
- measure and understand your course progress
- test and develop your knowledge with others
- learn and utilize different concepts and strategies for solving problems
- break down and engage complex problems
- maximize your learning by working well with and from others

Would you like to become a purposeful learner? We can show you to:

- identify and understand your interests
- think strategically about coordinating majors and minors
- develop questions for your formal adviser
- integrate your curricular and co-curricular learning
- identify learning needs for success in life after Knox