

Study Skills Presentation

Good afternoon, my name is Carys Goshawk, my student number is - 2310527.

I am here to discuss the importance of developing Study Skills and how to develop these skills throughout education and study. It is generally considered today that the use of these skills help improve your ability to study out of the classroom and to potentially receive a higher grade.

Today I will be discussing 3 different ways in which you can use these skills to better understand your way of studying and to take control of your own learning positively.

Education and qualifications are demanding, and it is well known that students are almost always under time pressure leading up to their exams. Rose, J (2023) believes that if you are able to develop good study habits outside of the classroom, then you are more than likely to succeed, to be on top of your subject and to receive a higher grade. As opposed to a student who has not been able to develop these skills for self-study.

The three different skills I will be discussing today are; Note Taking, Organisation and Critical Thinking.

The first skill I will be discussing is note taking. There are several reasons why good study skills are important, however note taking is generally considered to be a beneficial activity to enhance your learning. Tasks such as taking notes, outlining notes, making summaries and mind mapping are all forms of note taking.

According to Sporring (no date) note taking is a crucial part of the learning process. Sporring explains how it allows you to see things through a different perspective and allows you to focus on in the classroom as you are actively listening. If note taking is met with difficulty, an easier way to take notes is through visualisation, for example, mind mapping - Sporring (no date) explains that visualisation could make it easier for you to study as it helps you have an overview of your notes. It can actively help a creative mind remember certain things.

The Learning Portal (2021) explain that note taking is the key skill to help you to stay alert while listening and explains how it also helps you avoid distraction. It is said that note taking keeps your mind actively involved with the information that is given to you and helps you organise the information in a way that you would personally understand. The Learning Portal explains that this study skill allows you to understand the task ahead more clearly and allows you to make the connection between what you would learn in the classroom and the assignment that you received. Note taking allows you to take complex information and organise it into manageable pieces by picking out key points.

Crash Course (2017) explain that when you gather information, output is just as important as input. According to Crash Course, typing your notes on a laptop / computer gives you a speed advantage compared to handwritten notes - this was researched through a study done at Princeton University in 2014. The study was done through a fifteen-minute lecture, students using a laptop would write an average of 310 words, while students who made handwritten notes would average at 173 words. Giving the digital student an advantage. However, Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014) argue that students who made handwritten notes had increased academic performance and had processed the information more deeply than

students making notes on a laptop/ computer. Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014) explain that students who take notes digitally tend to transcribe lectures rather than taking all the information and re writing it in their own words. It is advised that this could be detrimental to learning.

Organisation

When you are organised, you are more likely to get all tasks completed on time and work more efficiently. According to, Traqq Team (2023) having organisational skills helps productivity and performance. A student who demonstrates this skill is said to communicate more appropriately and is able to manage their time more efficiently. A student who is organised, effectively shows this skill through making and adhering to a schedule and ensuring the deadlines are met.

An example of great organisation skills is, Communication. Communication and listening skills are beneficial in gathering the key points. Being an active listener and communicator ensures that you clearly understand what has been asked of you and if you are unsure, you would ask the appropriate questions.

We all have strengths and weaknesses, in order to develop your organisational skills, you would need to detect your weaker areas and find ways to improve them. Traqq (2023) relays a few different ways that will help with organisation. In order to succeed you must develop a routine. The reason behind this is because everyone has a different daily routine, everyone would have a time of day where you would be your most effective. Stick to a list of tasks you must complete and ensure they are ticked off when you have fulfilled that task. Try to organise said list into order of priority. Try and reduce the number of distractions around you, whether it be talking to friends, having your phone close by or working in a noisy

environment. Traqq (2023) concludes with always try and prepare for the next day and to acknowledge what you have done well throughout the day. Acknowledge small achievements, this can help build your confidence and help you complete or motivate you for the task ahead.

Critical Thinking

What is Critical Thinking?

Critical Thinking is the art of making clear, reasoned judgements based on interpreting, understanding, applying and synthesising evidence gathered from observation, reading and experimentation.

Burns,T & Sinfield,S. (2016)

Critical thinking allows you the ability to analyse and form your own opinion in order to come to a conclusion. Makematic (2019) explain that discussion and debates are important in developing your skill as a critical thinker and that in order to better this skill, you must be open, have an unbiased opinion and be more observant. The main skills explained to better critical thinking are being able to learn off other people and to have good observation and reflective skills. It is also explained that problem solving and analysing information will help better this skill. You must see in different perspectives beside your own. There are endless streams of information in the 21st century as we have online access to countless streaming sites, which discuss politics, racism, sexuality and so on. Critical Thinking would allow you to open your mind, listen to other parties and avoid forming a biased opinion.