**Active Study Strategies**

**Studying = Thinking!**

Studying ≠ Memorizing: You need to remember some information to get started, but then make sure you can apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate with the target material.

1. **Make Connections:** Connect with unfamiliar concepts using information you already know. In your notes, recall related content from other courses, other units in the same course, and your personal experiences.

2. **Make Content Memorable:** Analyze by creating visual organizers (ie: tables, mind maps, and organizers)

3. **Teach yourself and Others:** Use your own words to describe, elaborate, clarify, extend, and explain. Also, create examples, write questions, and answer textbook questions.

4. **Test yourself:** Make flash cards and use old exams to check your knowledge.

**Make your own Study Questions**
Create practice questions that force you to think critically. Even the act of writing the question will help you process information. Here are some examples:

**REMEMBERING:** List, find, name, identify, locate, describe, define

**EXAMPLE:** When was the Canadian Charter of Rights was enacted?

**UNDERSTANDING:** Interpret, summarize, explain, infer, paraphrase, discuss

**EXAMPLE:** Why did most provincial premiers oppose the new constitution?

**APPLYING:** Using and applying knowledge, solving problems, designing, manipulating

**EXAMPLE:** Should protesters be allowed to target specific religious groups?

**ANALYZING:** Identifying and analyzing patterns, recognizing trends, comparing and contrasting

**EXAMPLE:** Compare and contrast the Canadian Charter with the US Bill of Rights.

**EVALUATING:** Critically examining, making judgements, critiquing, defending

**EXAMPLE:** Should Canada keep the British crown as its head of state?

**CREATING:** Use information to create something new, construct, plan, produce, devise

**EXAMPLE:** Envision a scenario when the federal government would invoke the notwithstanding clause.

*Improve your writing and study skills!* Book an appointment with a writing advisor and/or academic coach on OSCARplus. Questions? Email skills@mcmaster.ca.