

Promoting a Culture of Student Success !

“I See You”

Why do I have to go to class if my teacher doesn't take attendance? Why do they keep walking around and pointing at the board? Why do they keep repeating themselves? We know that *figuring out college professors can be an assignment* all to itself, but there really is a method to their madness.

First you have to understand that **in-class lectures are an important part of the learning experience**. It is important that you go to class and of course pay attention. While some instructors may not take attendance, the truth is many of them do so with-

out you knowing.

First off going to class gives you the ability to ASK QUESTIONS regarding things you don't understand. Maybe you just need clarification? Maybe you just need another example? Going to class allows you the opportunity get that clarification or distinction you couldn't get from some long, boring textbook.

Secondly going to class allows you to **see what the instructor thinks is important**. Why do they keep repeating themselves? More than likely because they believe it is some-

thing you need to know (or their crazy, you never know). Instructors may also start listing things in alphabetical or numerical order. This is a clue that you should probably pay attention to. If you see something on the board you should probably write it down as well. Maybe it's the secret of life. Maybe it's the formula for Kentucky Fried Chickens secret spices. If you don't know what it means then ask.

Lastly going to class gets you brownie points plain and simple. If the professor knows you are **paying attention and asking questions** they may give

you the benefit of the doubt come exam time. They may also give you more opportunities to make up any work that was late (obviously because you were rescuing orphans from a burning building), or that is missing (obviously because your dog ate it).

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“Is there an APP for that ?”

Not yet so you still need to actually **read the book**. We know reading a textbook can be boring, but its supposed to be. It's supposed to contain facts, figures, examples, and anything else necessary for you to comprehend the basics of the subject matter without bias or personal influence. But the problem is not necessarily with the text book, but with the way it is approached.

With a textbook you don't start on page one and read all the way through to the end like you would other writings. With most writings the author is leading you on a journey of discovery. It's meant to be passive. With textbooks however you have to have a purpose. Remember, you are looking for specific information. And that information is what will most likely be on the exam. So reading a textbook involves **active reading**

skills.

I bet your first question is "what are active reading skills"? But that's not the first question you should ask. The first question should be "What will most likely be on the exam"? And for that answer you need to ask your instructor (there the ones testing you). There's nothing wrong with asking what exactly you need to know. However most professors are crafty and give you riddles. They say things like read the syllabus or study chapter "so-and-so". But if you read "I see you" than you understand that they already gave you hints on what you will be tested on. However that syllabus thing is also helpful. It should tell you exactly what chapters you need to study and may also provide the "big picture" learning objective that you need to know.

So now you have an idea of what is going to be on the test but not sure of what exactly you will be

tested on? Don't fret, that's where being an active reader comes into play. To be an active reader you have to know how textbooks are structured.

Textbooks usually contain things like *Table of Contents, Chapter Headings, and summaries*. This provides an overview of what the chapter is about and how things are organized. Also look over things like subject headings, subheadings, words in **bold** or *italicized*. This information usually contains important names, dates, or vocabulary words. Scan over these things so you get the big picture. Take some time to think about what you already know about the subject.

Still can't connect the class lectures to the textbook? Then review the study aids located in the back of most chapters. See what questions the book asks you to know. These questions (or

ones very similar to them) are what will most likely be on the test. And once you know what will most likely be on the exam your next task is to look for the answers in the text book. And remember that the main idea of most paragraphs are located in the first few sentences (the second favorite place for main ideas to be are the last few sentences as well).

Also, don't try to read an entire chapter in one night (because that is boring). You learn best in small increments. Read a section at a time and then go to something else. Come back to it later and see how much you remember. You need to give yourself time to learn something new.

Sing it with me: *Get your study on; get ya, get ya, get ya, get your study on* "QUIET !!!" "Shh"...Hush yo mouth"

“The Kick-Off”

Get your study on: get ya, get ya, get ya, get your study on, (in my best Missy “Misdemeanor” Elliott impression). That’s right, finals are just around the corner so it’s time to get your groove thing in motion. You heard me, get it moving and get it right. *Grades matter*, that’s the bottom line because University College said so (and so does your GPA, parents, teachers, and potential employers)!

This issue is dedicated to getting you ready to do your best, because you better. If not, you might get a letter in the mail telling you that you need to go see someone about “a very important matter”. And no, it’s not a telemarketer, it’s the Provost, Financial Aid, and the Academic Success Center deciding what your future at this university will be. Believe me, it’s not some place you want to be.

First off *it’s okay to seek help when you need it*. No one will think your dumb, don’t

belong in college, or that you’re not cool. In fact it is a sign of maturity. And no, not that fake ish some of you people talk about “**I’m Grown**”. No your not so stop it. If you were grown you would be mature and responsible enough to handle your business in school. We’ve said it before and we’ll say it again. You came to college for an education.

As stated previously, *Grades Matter*. It matters for Financial Aid purposes, it matters for graduation, it matters for your major, it matters for your family, and most importantly it should matter to *YOU*. We know students will have their ups and downs. We know that 8:30 am class is difficult to get up for. But we also know its important to **START SCHOOL OFF RIGHT**. If you start off with a



good GPA it is easier to maintain than if you start out poorly and try to play catch up later.

Want to know why starting off with a good GPA is important? Because it is based on how your GPA is calculated. So of course the next logical question should be “how is my GPA calculated Smarty-Pants?” Your GPA is calculated by dividing your total Quality points by the total number of credits attempted (and theirs no reason for name calling, that’s “MR. Smarty-Pants” to you).

Finally, being smart is cool. Or shall I say “it’s hip to be square” (hey, it was a good song back in the 80’s). People with a college degree earn more \$\$\$ than those that don’t have one. Have **more opportunities** in life. And most importantly, can make **better decisions** regarding the

life they want to lead. “So say it loud, I’m black and I’m proud”.

(That’s right people, with a college degree can tie obscure musical references into an article about the importance of starting college off right)

“The Rundown”

- Start studying now for finals
- Ask your professor if you can do extra -credit to boost your grade
- Ask for help if you need it
- Go to class
- If you don’t understand something ask for clarification
- Visit the Academic Success Center or Writing Center

My Three Questions

“What do I need to know?” Why do I need to know it?” How can I use (or apply) it?”



“What, Where”

The Academic Success Center should be one of the first places you go when you need help. Not only do they offer *tutoring services* in many classes (free of charge), but they also offer a *quiet place to study* as well. Need help with math, they can help. Need help with English, they can help. Need help deciding between Cocoa Puffs or Fruity Pebbles, they can help. Okay, that last part I’m not sure about. But it doesn’t hurt to ask. (I wouldn’t put anything past what Ms. Baldwin or Ms. Box know).

Throughout the Academic Year the Academic Success Center has workshops ranging from Study Skills to Time Management; from online learning modules to test taking strategies. They of-

fer a plethora of services for students to take advantage of, so visit them today. Whether you need a computer lab or a place where you and your classmate can work together, they have it. All this for students to get their study on. Feel free to stop by the 2nd floor of Vaux-Logan today. (However they may require you to bring in some Cocoa Puffs or Fruity Pebbles so they can decide which one is better. And don’t forget the milk).



Need help writing a paper? Want someone to read over what you have already written? Then check out the Writing Center. They can not only help you produce “A” quality papers, but they can also help you become a better writer as well.

Effective writing is one of those key skills that is important for all disciplines. Not only will your grades improve, but you will be more marketable to potential employers. The Writing Center can help you be clear, concise, & effective so visit the 2nd floor of Baily Hall today.



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