The PLRS Learning Cycle

LECTURE
Class Lecture Activities
1. Listen
2. Make Notes
3. Ask Questions
4. Recite/Discuss

PREVIEW
Immediate Preparation before Class
1. Review notes and textbook
2. Review written assignments or problems
3. Anticipate Lecture
   • review syllabus
   • preview new chapter
   • question

REVIEW
Immediate Review after Class
1. Edit, Process, and Summarize Notes
2. Question/Reflect
3. Set Purposes for Later Study

STUDY
Intensive Study Session
1. Review Lecture Notes
2. Study-Read Textbooks that correspond to lecture notes.
3. Question/Reflect
4. Review/Summarize main points

1. Preview—This immediate preparation before class is similar to a warm-up before a physical activity. It develops a specific readiness for class as new chapters are previewed and previous lecture and textbook study notes are reviewed. Written assignments and problems are proofread before being turned in.

2. Lecture—Formal learning begins, or is extended, in the lecture hall where students and instructor engage in dialogue. Through efficient listening/note-taking techniques, and by means of incisive questions, frequent recitations, and lively discussion, learning takes place in a dynamic atmosphere.

3. Review—This active response to classroom learning includes both recall and reorganization of the lecture and preparation for later intensive study. It should take place as soon after class as possible. This review requires that any class assignments be planned while its details are still fresh in the mind. The review following each course’s final weekly class session can be expanded into a full review of all material covered in the past weeks (assignments and lectures).

4. Study—This intensive session occurs normally the night before the next class lecture. It begins with a brief review of the latest lecture notes. Then the textbook assignment is overviewed and mastered with a study-reading technique such as Survey-Question/Study-Read/Summarize-Test. Questions and personal reactions to the study-reading should be written down to be brought up for clarification and discussion in class.

By following the recommendations of the PLRS LEARNING CYCLE, you will dramatically increase the number of times you work at learning with little, if any, increase in your total study time. Some students will probably spend less time in the intensive study sessions because of the class previews and reviews that conclude each week’s course work. Remember—CONTROL over your time begins when you sign up for classes. The number of courses you take and how class hours are arranged determine to a great extent your study schedule. The key to efficient, effective learning lies in following the PLRS LEARNING CYCLE.

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