

Student Academic Resource Center



## Notecard Question & Answer Technique at a Glance

- 1. **Purchase notecards** for recording main ideas and details. The size may be 3 x 5, 4 x 6, or 5 x 8 inches depending on the amount of material to be recorded, handwriting size, and if you include memory boosters of drawings, pictures, diagrams, charts, or tables.
- 2. **Turn main points from lectures and textbooks into questions**. Place a question on one side of a notecard and its answer on the other. With math or chemistry problems, put a problem on one side and the solution, step-by-step, on the other.
- 3. **Recite questions and answers**. This promotes faster learning and more accurate recall and reveals what has and has not been learned before an exam is taken when something can still be done about it. The more often notecards are recited, the more likely it is for information to move from short term memory toward long term memory.

Unless recitation of material to be learned is done repeatedly and regularly, it is <u>normal</u> to forget material on exams.



## How to Set Up Notecards

Adapted from: Congos, Dennis H. (2011) Starting Out in Community College. Chicago, II: McGraw-Hill





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Class 10/30	<u>1. Plantae ex ferns, mosses</u>
5 kingdoms of living things?	2. Anímalía ex humans, bírds 3. Protísta ex díatoms, paramecía 4. Monera ex bactería, algae 5. Fungí ex mushrooms, yeast
	Plants (5) Anímals (are) Pro Mo Fun

## How to Recite Notecards

- **Step 1.** Read a question aloud from or look at a problem from the notecard.
- **Step 2.** Then without looking, recite an answer aloud as if lecturing a class. Those who have discovered that writing answers enhances learning and recall are encouraged to do so. If you have problems and solutions on notecards, write out a solution on scrap paper from memory.
- Step 3. Turn the notecard over & check for completeness & accuracy of your answer or solution.
- **Step 4.** If your answer was complete and accurate, place the notecard in the "I know this" pile and move on to the next notecard.
- **Step 5.** If your answer or solution was not complete and accurate, read the answer aloud. Then turn the card over and read the question aloud or view the problem, again. Recite aloud or write the answer again from memory and then turn the card over and check your answer. Keep repeating this step until you get the answer correct and then place that notecard in the "I don't know this, yet" pile. Then, move on to the next notecard.
- **Step 6.** Review the "I don't know this pile" once every 2 to 3 days to promote learning. Review the "I know this" 1 or 2 times per week to check for and prevent forgetting.

As the number of times increases that you review and recite notecards, more and more of the cards will transfer to the "I know this" pile and you'll see progress in learning. You are also discovering what you have learned and what you have not yet learned before a test when you can still do something about it.