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Reflections

Succeeding in science and math:

My assignment was to complete my chapter 3 math homework online. My grade for mymathlab was dropping significantly because one I got home I would see my notes, but not remember the steps for the individual problems. So I decided to test the LTL method for technical note taking for math. While, my teacher was writing the equations I wrote the examples on the right side of a page in my notebook, and the steps she described while solving them on the left side of the page in word form. When I went home and started my homework that night, I seemed to have forgotten a few steps to completing some of the problems. So, I looked at the steps that I had written previously in word form on the left side of the page. And then made another example similar to that problem on the back side. By doing this I was checking out my understanding of the steps before submitting my homework answer online. By looking at the steps, then performing them on a different equation I was able to fully remember how to solve that particular problem. I am proud of the artifact I have chosen because it has really helped me with my math, before using this LTL strategy I was struggling to keep my grade up. Since using this method my grade has went back up to an A. In my math class we are allowed to use one piece of paper front and back for the test to look back to. So, I chose the LTL notes I had made before. I wrote a few more problems on it and the steps to completing it. When I took the test I found it easy to have something to look back on that had multiple examples with the steps written next to it. Having these notes I saw two different methods to solving the equations. And because this method worked so well in my math class I plan to use this method in my future courses as well such as biology 101 next semester.

Taking and processing notes:

My assignment was to write notes from a CQ Researcher to use in my essay. So, I used the “after” notes LTL method. I looked at the student sample to guide me in writing my notes for this assignment. When I used to write notes before learning this method, my notes would be very disorganized. I used to go home after class and try to start writing the outlines to my essays but I couldn’t finish them because all my notes would be all over my page and I wouldn’t tell the difference in them. I also would mix up facts because I couldn’t tell where I was confused, I was not able to go back and clear up my confusion later. So, when I used the LTL method of “after” note taking I used asterisks and got the answers to any questions I had. Using this, my paper was a lot more organized with a lot of questions I would have gotten stuck on before answered. I am proud because I learned a new technique that my teacher was very fond of to use for all my papers. I will continue to use this method for English 101 and the future essays to come.

Analyzing reading assignments:

 My assignment was to do homework out of my math textbook. I didn’t quite understand what the word portion of the textbook was saying. So, I used the LTL method I learned for reading to answer questions for reading textbooks. First I glanced over the headings, subheadings, and pictures in the chapter I was working on. Then, I wrote questions from the headings, subheadings, and pictures in the chapter I didn’t quite understand. Thirdly, I read for the answers. Lastly, to fully understand I revised my questions to make sure there was no more confusion. By doing this I was able to fully understand what the word portion was telling me to do so I could solve the equations I was stuck on to finish my homework. I am proud of my artifact because it shows how I took the questions I used the reading to answer questions from textbooks method to answer those questions I thought I would never be able to solve. By using this particular LTL method, I was able to use key words and subheadings to better understand what the text exactly meant. Doing this really made me have a new perspective on the importance of the whole reading rather than just than bold headings themselves. I am very grateful I was taught this method because I am sure it will come in handy in many other subjects, especially science related courses where textbook is the main resource for research.

Time/ Task Management:

For the last two weeks of the Fall semester I had to plan out my classes as well as when I will complete my final assignments accordingly, so I wouldn’t forget anything important. I came from alternative so I have not had 4 classes to worry about since middle school. I knew I had to find a way to manage each task for each class to work with my schedule. So, what I did was go to the store and bought a daily planner for the 2015-2016 year. I wrote in each assignment for the days it was due and the days I decided I would work on them evenly throughout the week without cramming them all together and have confusion. The LTL method helped me in organizing my assignments I had to do, so I would not get to the point where I was trying to do everything at the last minute and having procrastination. I did the LTL steps of time/ task management by using a planner. First, I acknowledged that no matter what came up I knew that at the specific time I had planned I would complete that individual task. Next, I divided up each of my assignment into small manageable tasks that I knew I could accomplish for the time I had taken aside, making sure to take breaks between them. As I checked off each task as I accomplished it. In fact, I am very proud of the method I used because it turned out to work for the best because I didn’t have any tension about whether my assignments were going to be ready for the due dates or not.

Effective Studying:

 I have learned that I have the learning style that of a right- brain, big picture learner, while using the integrating left- and right- brain learning system. I also discovered that I am a visual learner. I found out that mind maps are the best type of learning for my learning style. So, for my English class we had to write an outline to a persuasive essay using a CQ Researcher for the debate on whether or not video games make a person violent. Since it was a new essay I decided to make a mind map as my outline. By using the LTL Method to right-brained learners I was able to find the key facts linked to each paragraph and be able to properly write my essay paper without losing focus on the thesis statement. I wrote the thesis statement in the middle of the page like a symbol representing that the thesis statement is the main point of the paper. Then drawing a line to the thesis statement I wrote the topic of each paragraph so I knew what each paragraph was representing and how it contributed to the thesis statement. Then from each paragraph title I write three little bubbles surrounding it to making what would be included in each individual paragraph. I am proud of this artifact because when I showed my professor the outline he was so amazed at the mind map technique I used he showed the class as a great example to use. He told me it’s one of the best ways to write an outline paper, but sadly its very rare he sees an outline that was set up as a mind map. I found it very easy for me to refer back to when I was writing my paper because I have a photographic memory and it was like a picture in my mind.

Writing Essays:

 In writing essays there are many different steps in writing a “perfect” essay paper. From tips how to study and find the information, to writing the rough draft, and lastly how to write your final paper. My assignment was to write a rough draft for a CQ Researcher paper I was preparing to write an essay on. The topic of the paragraph was “should teens who murder be tried as adults.” In this paper I wrote answer to questions that I asked myself when I first read through the article fully. I wrote answers that I knew people would be asking themselves as they were reading through my essay. I wrote key words that were involved in the CQR such as counseling, psychologically, and physically. I made sure to include these facts in my paragraph because they were included as part of my thesis statement that was the main topic sentence question of my paragraph. Once I completed writing the answers to my questions and using key facts to do it. I came up with a concluding sentence that summed up the whole paragraph. Mine was “have hope for the next generation.” By using the LTL steps for writing a good paragraph that covered answered the main question with key facts and supporting details.