

Honor Council's How to make a study guide

Gather Your Materials

1.

- **Class Notes:** Ensure they are complete and well-organized. If anything is missing, ask classmates or refer to lecture recordings.
- **Textbooks & Handouts**
- **Past Tests, Quizzes & Assignments**
- **Syllabus:** Use it as a guide to ensure you cover all required topics.
- **Online Resources:** Supplement your notes with reliable educational websites, videos, and study guides.

Identify Key Information

2.

Look for patterns in the information. If a topic is emphasized multiple times in lectures, textbooks, or tests, it's likely to be important.

- **Main ideas and themes**
- **Key terms, definitions, and formulas**
- **Important dates, people, and events** (for history or social studies)
- **Diagrams and charts** (for subjects like biology, physics, and math)
- **Common mistakes that students make and how to avoid them**

Choose a Study Guide Format

3.

Outline Format

- Best for structured subjects like history, science, or literature
- Organize information using main headings and bullet points

Concept Maps & Diagrams

- Best for visual learners and complex topics like biology or psychology
- Use a mind map to connect related concepts

Flashcards

- Best for memorization-heavy subjects like vocabulary, formulas, or medical terms
- Write a term or question on one side and the definition or answer on the other
- Digital tools like Quizlet or Anki can help you create and review flashcards efficiently

Summary Sheets

- Best for quick review before tests
- Condense all essential information onto a single page.
- Use bullet points, charts, or color-coded sections for clarity

Question & Answer Format

- Best for memorization-heavy subjects like vocabulary, formulas, or medical terms
- Write a term or question on one side and the definition or answer on the other
- Digital tools like Quizlet or Anki can help

Use Memory Aids & Study Strategies

4.

Mnemonics & Acronyms: Example: PEMDAS

Association Techniques:
Connect new information with something familiar.
Example: Relating DNA structure to a twisted ladder helps in understanding its shape.

Color-Coding & Highlighting:
Use different colors for different categories of information (e.g., red for key terms, blue for formulas, green for examples).

Chunking:
Break information into smaller sections for easier memorization
(e.g. remembering historical events in 10-year increments)

Test Yourself

5.

The best way to retain information is to actively recall it. Try these strategies:

- **Cover & Recall:** Read a section, cover it, and try to recall the details from memory
- **Practice Problems:** If studying math or science, solve practice questions instead of just reading formulas
- **Explain Concepts Out Loud:** Teach the material to a friend or family member
- **Take Self-Quizzes:** Use past exams or online practice tests to evaluate your understanding