



12 Proven Learning Strategies

1. Goals should be attainable and moderately challenging. Satisfaction derives from attempting a difficult task, working hard, and finally either accomplishing it or knowing you gave it your best shot.
2. One notebook divider for each minor subject and four for each major subject--thus providing for the accompanying notes, tests/quizzes, and returned tests—is best for keeping everything in its place.
3. Small sticky notes allow the noting of questions, important details, plot development, and vocabulary without marking up textbooks and assigned novels.
4. In writing, strong action verbs and nouns are better used than less descriptive adjectives and adverbs. Instead of “Sam drank his soda very quickly,” have him *gulp*, *chug*, *guzzle*, or *inhale* his *Pepsi*.
5. Every paragraph should contain only one overriding main idea, together with its related facts and details. Organization and a well-supported message depend on it.
6. Misspellings are best found by reading a piece of writing backward from last word to first, so the focus is purely on spelling, not content or punctuation.
7. Hardest subjects should be tackled first while energy is highest, leaving less taxing assignments for later when fatigue sets in.
8. Long-term recall is facilitated by having information repeated often and out loud, coupled with the intent to learn and remember. Frequent recitation is the most powerful memory tool.
9. Highlighting must-learn facts, dates, events, and terms during the first lecture notes go-through underscores crucial information, maintains focus, and triggers the memory process.
10. Francis Robinson’s SQ3R, standing for *Survey*, *Question*, *Read*, *Recite*, *Review*, is a sure-bet for academic success. (Details available in *Other-Wise and School-Wise: A Parent Guidebook*)
11. Reading all test questions but answering the easiest ones first improves the odds and ensures that these are all answered before time runs out. Plus, an answer to one question might just be found in another.
12. On essay tests, turning the question into a statement and making it the lead sentence guarantees the main idea is up front and remains in focus, determining everything else that follows.

To learn more about Carol A. Josel visit www.SchoolWiseBooks.com
Visit her Blog: <http://schoolwisebooks.com/blog/>
Follow Carol on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/cjosel>