STUDY SUPPORT GROUPS

Education often looks like competition. We compete for entrance into school and for grades when we are in school. As a result, it’s easy to overlook the power of cooperation. Study support groups feed you energy; we draw strength from groups. Aside from the camaraderie, the fellowship, and the fun, a support group can assist you by elevating your spirit. There will be days when you just don’t want to work at your education. Other members of a study support group can give you encouragement. More importantly, you are more likely to keep an appointment to study with a group than to study by yourself. If you declare your intention to study with others and know they are depending on you, your intention will gain strength.

When studying in groups, it will be helpful to do the following:

1. Test each other by asking questions. Each group can agree to bring four or five test questions to each meeting, then you can all take the test made from these questions.

2. Practice teaching each other. Teaching is a great way to learn something. When you teach something, you naturally take on a teacher’s attitude of, “I know this,” as opposed to a student’s attitude of, “I still have to learn this.” Also the vocalization involved in teaching further reinforces your memory.
3. Compare notes to make sure you all heard the same thing in class and that you all recorded the important information. Ask other students about material in your notes that is unclear to you.

4. Limit groups to five or six people. Test the group first by planning a one-time-only session. If that session works, plan another. After several successful sessions, you can schedule regular meetings.

5. Conduct open-ended discussions and debates designed to produce understanding and insight.

6. Take advantage of group support in personal areas. Other people can often have insight into your problems involving transportation, childcare, finances, time scheduling, and/or other barriers you may experience in getting what you want from school.

7. Set an agenda for each meeting. Select the items from the above list or create other activities that you will do as a group. Set approximate times for each agenda item and determine a quitting time. End each meeting with assignments for each member. Remember that consistency is important in reaching your desired goal.

Good Luck!

Compiled by J. Russell-Felix

ATTENTION STUDENTS

For detailed information, contact a Transfer Advisor in the Advisement/Transfer Center, Room S752, (212) 220-8315

Common Pitfalls To An Easy Transfer And How To Avoid Them...

Pitfall 1: Failing to think ahead
Solution: Plan your program

Pitfall 2: Taking the wrong courses
Solution: Make informed decisions

Pitfall 3: Missing deadlines and failing to notice changed requirements
Solution: Check the calendar

Pitfall 4: Trying to avoid math or writing courses
Solution: Take them anyway

Pitfall 5: Having incomplete lower-division preparation (remedial courses)
Solution: Watch the requirements

Adapted from For Graduates Only-A Magazine for Two Year College Graduates