

STRATEGIES FOR VISUAL LEARNERS¹

Visual learners are attracted to the color, shape, size, and visual contrasts in objects. When reading or attending class, maximize your learning by focusing on the visual elements available to you.

When attending class, pay attention to the following:

- † Ask to sit near the front so you're better able to see everything.
- † Pay attention to the teacher's gestures or facial expressions. You will be able to better remember ideas if you can associate them with a specific movement or look of the teacher.
- † Use graphs and charts. Visual learners will be able to better remember concepts through spatial and colored representations, so if your teacher presents ideas in a chart format, try to copy this rather than writing out all the information in sentences.
- † Take notes during lectures to capitalize on your learning style -- but consider how you format your notes. Using symbols, flow charts, diagrams or different colors will help you remember the connections between different ideas when you review them later.
- † Embrace Powerpoints (PPT), pictures, videos, etc. Students sometimes zone out when videos or PPTs are on, but remember that the visuals in these media will allow YOU to better remember the information in them.

After class, try these study strategies:

- ✓ Make to-do lists in a planner or on your phone. Seeing your list is important!
- ✓ Study in solitude. You need to see things to remember them, and often, noise will distract you.
- ✓ Rewrite your notes replacing words with as many symbols, pictures, or drawings as possible.
- ✓ Create visual study aids in multiple colors. Color code your notes, vocabulary words, and textbook information you've written down to review.
- ✓ Try redrawing your notes from memory. Don't just focus on the content, but the layout of the page. This will help reinforce the spatial and content connections on the page.
- ✓ Be sure to read the diagrams, maps, and other visuals that go along with text to help you remember it.
- ✓ Try making a Prezi (Prezi.com); this will force you to retype your notes, and also allow you to incorporate helpful pictures and create spatial relationships between words. Note: unfortunately, Prezi has a subscription fee, but consider trying the "Free Trial" to find out if it works for you.
- ✓ Write out potential test questions to help you see what your answers will look like.

¹ Material adapted from UC Berkeley's Learning Assistance Center.