

ZEBRA STUDY SKILLS AND ORGANIZATION GUIDE



Let me guess! You've already realized that the expectations in 7th grade are **INCREDIBLY** high. It is **EXTREMELY** important to all of your teachers that you experience success this school year. In order to grow as a student, you'll have to work hard! Reviewing the following study skills and organizational tips will provide you with the tools you need to meet your academic goals this school year!

Successful Zebras work each day to develop their skills in the following areas:

- Organization
- Study Habits
- Time Management
- Active Questioning and Listening
- Note Taking

YOU can develop these critical skills by using the resources included in this guide.

1. Organization:

Being organized means you take the time to put your learning materials together in an orderly and neat way. Check the statements in the list below that describe you! You'll be the only one who sees this self-assessment, so be honest!

- 1. My backpack is organized and free of crumpled or loose papers.
- 2. I come to class with sharpened pens or pencils that work.
- 3. I am prepared for class most of the time.
- 4. My locker is usually neat.
- 5. I know what my assignments are because they're written down in my agenda.
- 6. I can easily find what I need.
- 7. I have a notebook or binder for each subject.
- 8. I rarely lose or forget anything.
- 9. I know where my papers and notes are for every class.
- 10. I think of myself as well organized.

Identify by numbers the organizational skills you would like to work on:

_____ # _____ # _____ # _____ # _____

Name three steps you could take to help you improve your organizational skills:

STEP 1:

STEP 2:

STEP 3:



NAME: _____

MY PERSONAL STUDY PLANNER

STEP ONE: I need to study for the following subject: (Circle one)

- Language Arts
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health/PE
- Other: _____

STEP TWO: I need to study because I have an upcoming: (Circle one)

- Quiz
- Test
- Benchmark Assessment
- Project
- Other: _____



❖ This assessment will occur on: _____
(Insert Date)

STEP THREE: Use the **ASPIRE** plan to help you best prepare for your upcoming assessment.

A	Approach your studying with a positive attitude!	I think I can! I think I can!
S	Select appropriate resources to help you study.	What is this assessment covering? What materials will I need to study for this assessment?
P	Plan in advance what strategies you'll use to prepare	I plan to use the following strategies to study for my assessment:
I	Investigate further and ask questions when you stumble across something you don't understand.	What questions do I have about the materials?
R	Review materials well in advance of your assessment.	Time Management: When do I plan to study? Date: _____ Time: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
E	Evaluate your grades and explore your options if you're not satisfied with your results.	I received the following grade on my assessment: _____

MY PERSONAL STUDY PLANNER

STEP ONE: I need to study for the following subject: (Circle one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Math | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/PE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

STEP TWO: I need to study because I have an upcoming: (Circle one)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz | <input type="checkbox"/> Project |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmark Assessment | |

❖ This assessment will occur on: Friday July 15, 2011
(Insert Date)

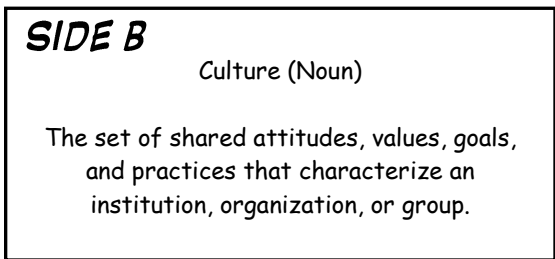
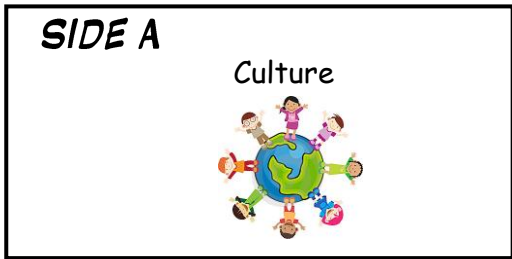
STEP THREE: Use the **ASPIRE** plan to help you best prepare for your upcoming assessment.

A	Approach your studying with a positive attitude!	I think I can! I think I can!
S	Select appropriate resources to help you study.	What is this assessment covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This assessment is covering short stories and literary elements. • I need to know the literary terms definitions. • I need to know what it means to make an inference. What materials will I need to study for this assessment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I need my literary terms reference sheet (ILL Pg. # _____) • I need to study other handouts from class. (ILL Pg. # _____)
P	Plan in advance what strategies you'll use to prepare	I plan to use the following strategies to study for my assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will use flashcards.
I	Investigate further and ask questions when you stumble across something you don't understand.	What questions do I have about the materials? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't understand third person omniscient point of view???? • What is the difference between historical fiction and realistic fiction?
R	Review materials well in advance of your assessment.	Time Management: When do I plan to study? Date: <u>Monday 7/11/11</u> Time: <u>4:00-5:00</u> Date: <u>Wednesday 7/13/11</u> Time: <u>Working Lunch</u> Date: <u>Thursday 7/14/11</u> Time: <u>7:00-8:15</u>
E	Evaluate your grades and explore your options if you're not satisfied with your results.	I received the following grade on my assessment: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Results to be determined!</i></p>

STUDY STRATEGIES

The following tools can be extremely helpful when studying for upcoming assessments. Pick one or use a combination of multiple strategies to help yourself prepare!

- ➔ 1. **Flash Cards:** Using flashcards is a very effective strategy for studying. Flash cards are two-sided study aids that have a cue, a question, or a concept on one side and the answer on the opposite side.



Tips:

- Carry the flashcards with you everywhere you go so you can review whenever you have a free moment.
- Prepare the cards well in advance of the assessment so you have time to use them.
- Add colors or pictures to aid you in memorizing the terms most effectively.
- Break the cards into small chunks and shuffle frequently so you're always seeing different cards.

Hint: If you don't feel like using paper flashcards, there are all kinds of websites out there that will allow you to type in your content and print. Check out www.quizlet.com for example.

- ➔ 2. **Mnemonics Devices and Memory-helpers:** A mnemonic device is a little phrase or rhyme used as a memory tool.

<u>Example:</u> Math- Order of Operations	PEMDAS Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally	Parentheses, Exponents, Multiplication, Division, Addition, Subtraction
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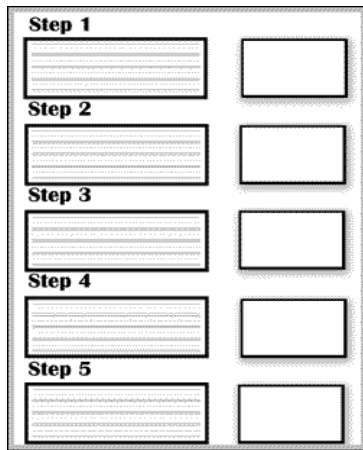
<u>Example:</u> Science- Mitosis (cell division)	IPMAT I Propose All Men Are Toads	Interphase, Prophase, Metaphase, Anaphase, Telophase
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- ➔ 3. **Create a Graphic Organizer or Mind Map:** When creating a graphic organizer or mind map, take information from your class notes or handouts and rearrange the information in a way that makes sense to you as a learner. Mind Maps usually include more pictures and colors.

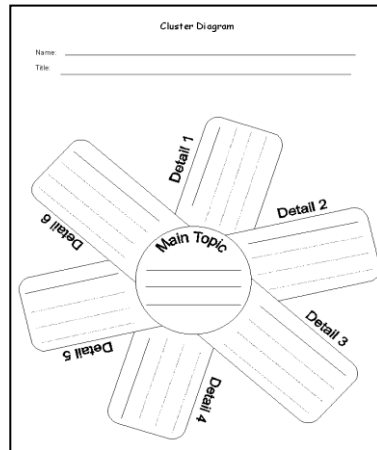
Example: If you know you're going to be taking a quiz over the difference between alligators and crocodiles, make a graphic organizer where you can clearly chart the differences.

Alligator	Both	Crocodile
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad Snout • You cannot see their teeth when their mouths are closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both have snouts • Both have teeth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinner Snout • Teeth are always visible

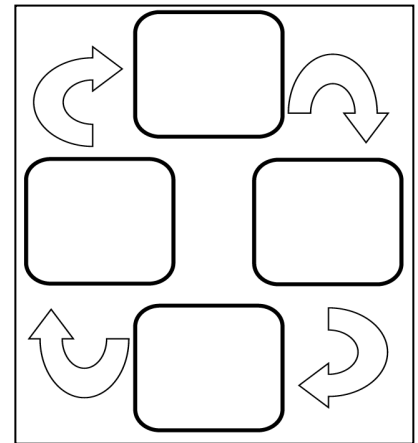
Other Examples: Pick one that works best for you and the material you are trying to study!



(EX: Steps of the Writing Process)

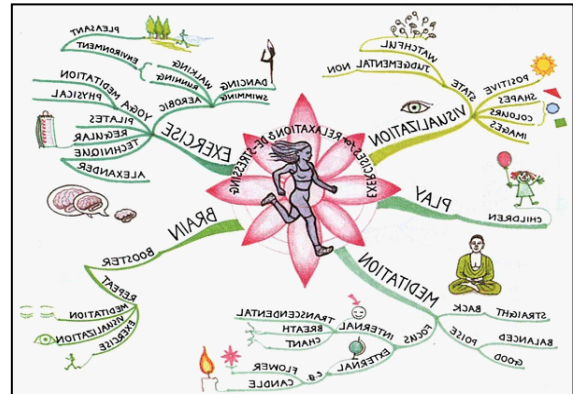
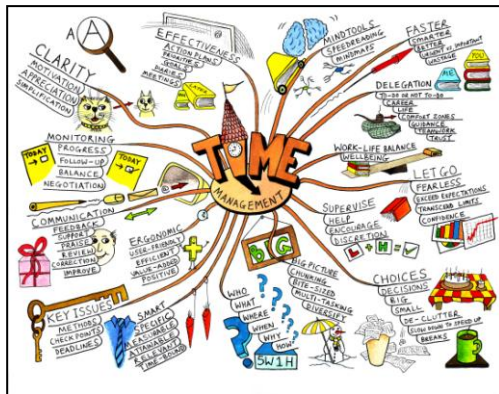


(Ex: Effects of Deforestation)

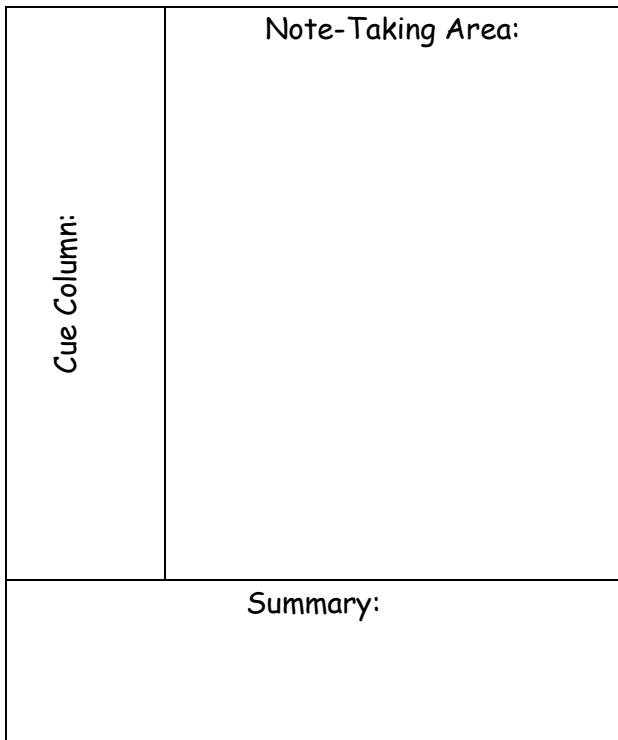


(Stages of the Life Cycle)

Mind Maps:



4. Create and Study Cornell Notes or Double Sided Notes: Cornell Notes are notes that allow you to process and ask questions



- Steps for using Cornell or Double-Sided Notes:
1. **Record:** During class, use the note-taking area to record notes from that day's lesson.
 2. **Questions:** As soon after class as possible, create questions based on the notes in the cue-column section. Writing questions helps clarify meanings and strengthen memory.
 3. **Recite:** Cover the note-taking column with a sheet of paper. Then, looking at the questions or cues say aloud, in your own words, the answers to the questions, facts, or ideas indicated by the cue column.
 4. **Review:** Spend time every week reviewing your previous notes.
 5. **Summary:** At the end of class, use the summary space at the bottom of the page to summarize the notes from that day.

