



## Study Skills Tips for Middle School Students

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### **Repetition**

In every subject, the more you go over material the easier it is to memorize. After a certain amount of practice it will become second nature. In addition, we think it is more useful to study in numerous short bursts instead of one long cram session. For example, if you find out on Monday you have a test Friday, it is better to study around 30 minutes every night instead of 2 or more straight hours Thursday night. Getting into this habit early pays big dividends the night before the test.

### **Flash Cards**

One of the easiest and most effective study tools are flash cards. They are easy to make and are useful for memorizing vocabulary for any subject. More often than not, any topic can be broken down into key concepts that need to be memorized and flash cards can be utilized. If you dislike writing, you can make flash cards online at [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com).

### **Pneumonic Devices**

Coming up with an acronym or metaphor for concepts can simplify them and make them easier to remember. For example, to remember all of the planets we learned My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas (back when Pluto was still a planet).

### **Taking Notes**

As students get older, teachers will lecture more and assign more readings. It is critical to take good notes. As you read an article or textbook, jot down the key ideas and important facts. This can serve as a great study guide later and writing helps some people remember things. Becoming a good note taker at an early age will make high school and college a lot easier. The Cornell note taking method is effective.

### **Relating to the Big Picture**

Often times, concepts seem distant and complicated and therefore hard to understand and memorize. By relating a topic to something simple that interests you, it will not only make the topic easier to understand and memorize, but it will be more interesting because it relates to you.

AC Peers provides a 10 lesson Study Skills curriculum with activities completely free of charge with 1:1 tutoring sign-ups. Topics include note taking, long term assignment planning, time management, as well as pre/post diagnostics.

Get started at [peers.aristotlecircle.com](https://peers.aristotlecircle.com)