

9 Simple Keys to Success in Mr. D's Science Class

1. Study all vocabulary every day.
 - Go over the key terms for the whole chapter at least once
 - Use flash cards with the term on one side/picture and definition on the other side
~ One inexpensive pack of index cards has 100, cut them in half and you have enough for 200 terms
 - Pictures help you associate an image with the word and you will understand the definition better
 - UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITION: Use your own words to explain a concept/term, but be accurate about it. **Don't use the glossary as a crutch.**
2. Read the section summary at the end of the chapter before you read the section (Start at the end.)
 - Get the main idea(s) of the section before you read it, the section will expand on the main idea(s).
3. Review the key terms for the section.
 - Go over the terms listed at the beginning of the section and **understand** them before you read.
4. Preview the section.
 - Look at pictures and read the captions
 - Read headings and subheadings to get a feel for the information in the section
 - Write down any questions that come to mind and try to answer them as you read
5. Be an active reader.
 - Use the objective(s) listed at the beginning of the section as questions and try to answer them as you read
 - Write down questions that come to mind (to be asked in class or researched on your own)
 - Write down any words or phrases that you don't understand (and get them explained/looked up)
6. Note Taking
 - Be sure to put your responses in your own words – **DON'T COPY FROM THE BOOK!**
 - Follow the required format (stay organized using the headings).
 - **DO MORE THAN THE MINIMUM:** diagrams and labels, additional notes, etc.
7. Anticipate/Plan Ahead
 - Have "Section Reviews" (#1-6) done for a section before it will be covered in class.
 - Check the calendar for the tentative timeline for a chapter when it's available.
8. Participate in class.
 - Actively engage in class discussions and/or exercises.
 - Take notes (Write down what seems important, don't wait until later to write it down.)
 - We should add to our comp book any time something is **NEW** or a **BETTER UNDERSTANDING**
9. Use class time wisely.
 - Come to class prepared to learn
 - Stay on task and stay focused
 - Don't "just sit there"
 - "When I finish early, I must do something Appropriate, Quiet, Independent, and Productive."