# Active Study Skills

## What is active studying?

- **Active studying includes:**
  - Making connections between concepts in your notes and resources
  - Quizzing yourself on the information

- **Re-reading the textbook and your notes is NOT active studying because:**
  - You may skim over material without absorbing it
  - You may confuse familiarity with the material with actually knowing and understanding it

## What are some active studying tools?

- **Flashcards:** Keep them simple. Only include one word/idea per flashcard
- **Matrix Tables:** Use to categorize and learn similar types of information across several concepts
- **Venn Diagrams:** Compare and contrast two concepts from your class
- **Concept Maps:** Make connections between the details of a concept
- **Cornell Notes:** See the Notetaking handout
- **Practice Problems:** Find them in homework, textbooks, and practice tests
- **Study Groups:** Form study groups of 3-6 people
- **Tutoring & Supplemental Instruction**
- And more!

## 3 Useful Active Study Tools:

**Flashcards:** Write the word or concept you want to know on one side and the definition on the other side. Keep your flashcards simple.

**DON’T** have a flashcard that says “Roman Empire” and list everything you know on the back.

**DO** have separate flashcards for “Trade Partners of Roman Empire,” “Why did the Roman Empire fall?”, etc.

**Matrix Tables:** A matrix table is an excellent way to see relationships between different topics. As you can see below, matrix tables help categorize/group together similar types of information for multiple concepts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macromolecule</th>
<th>Monomer</th>
<th>Purpose in Cell</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNA</td>
<td>Nucleic Acids</td>
<td>Information storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protein</td>
<td>Amino Acids</td>
<td>Enzymes, structure, messengers, and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipids</td>
<td>None; made of hydrocarbon chains</td>
<td>Energy storage, membrane structure, signaling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concept Maps:** Concept maps help make connections between concepts. For example, if studying the “Yuan Dynasty in China”, put that main idea in the center. Then create branches to discuss “Founding”, “Government Structure”, “Impact of Yuan Dynasty”, and any other concepts you need to know about that main idea.