Strategy #4 – Test-Taking Strategies – Making and Using Study Guides

Content-heavy subjects like social studies may require you to take content-heavy tests and exams. Sometimes teachers will provide study guides so you know what the test will cover, but if they don’t, or if they provide an outline only and expect you to supply the details, the following tips will help you make your own study guide:

* If you are provided an outline, a list of certain questions, and/or vocabulary to study, great! Answer the questions on the page provided if there’s room to do so, but if you need more space to make your answers complete and legible, use a separate sheet or a new word document. If you can’t read what you write, or can’t write all that you need, your study guide won’t be very useful!
* If the study guide is assigned to be turned in for credit, make sure to follow directions regarding how the information should be presented. If it isn’t, you can be more creative with your presentation if it will help you learn the information, but you should still make sure to answer every question so you can come back and review all the information!
* Whether you are given a study guide or are making your own, make sure you start it soon enough to give you the chance to actually study it!
* If the test will include essay questions, practice writing the complete sentence and paragraph answers – you will feel more prepared and confident than if you just take notes!
* Use old tests and assignments and section and chapter reviews to find the answers you need for assigned study guides, as well as to find the questions you need when making your own study guide.