

The **WRITING** CENTER

**Elftmann Student
Success Center**

A Guide On How To:

Self-Test

- What is self testing?
- How do I write questions?
- Why does it work?



Self-Testing

An effective way to review and study class or reading notes is to create a self-test.



What is Self-Testing?

Self-testing is a study strategy in which you practice making test questions, and then study by reciting the answers to those questions.

To start, use the opposing page of your notes to create a two-column study sheet. In the first column, write possible test questions from your notes or the headings of your textbook chapter. Then, write the answer to those questions in the second column. To review, simply cover the second column, ask yourself the questions you came up with, and see if you can answer without looking back.

Self - Test		Note Page
Question	Answer	Hybrid Vehicles - Definition: uses both an engine and motor to propel the vehicle.
What is a Hybrid?	Runs on gas and battery	Levels: (Text Reference: Ch. 64)
A 1952 Chevy is an example of a hybrid?	False	Mild - ex: GM Silverado, Saturn Vue
What are the 3 levels of hybrids?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mild• Medium• Full	Medium - ex: Honda Insight, Civic, Accord
		Full - ex: Toyota Prius, Ford Escape

How do I write my questions?

In technical fields, you can expect to study processes, sequences, codes, rules, definitions, and techniques. Questions that start with what, why, or how are good places to start, and will pick out the important details in your notes or reading.

Example Source	Example Question
Sequence of steps	How does torque get transmitted to the drive wheels?
Vocabulary term	What is a parallel-hybrid design?
Caption from a diagram or photo	What is a reversible starter/alternator used for?
Graph or Chart	What are the components of a typical belt alternator-starter system?

Another strategy to use is to take the sub-headings from the textbook section and turn it into a question. This way, you know how effective your question is by how much of the paragraph answers it.

Example Heading	Example Question
<i>Common Features of Most Hybrids</i>	What are the common features of most hybrids?
<i>Classifications of Hybrid-Electric Vehicles</i>	What are the classifications of hybrid-electric vehicles? How are hybrid-electric vehicles classified?
<i>Electric Motors</i>	Why are electric motors ideal for use in a vehicle?

Why does Self-Testing work?

1. **Reciting** information, not just re-reading it, gives your brain multiple channels to use that information: see it, say it, hear it.
2. When you create a question for a particular section, you are concentrating on the most important point of what you've read, or the **main idea**.
3. Using Self-Testing forces you to **play** with the material; the more comfortable you are with the material, the better you know it.
4. A proven way to prepare for a test is to **simulate the testing conditions**. Self-Testing allows a way to be exposed to possible test questions without the pressure.
5. Self-testing requires you to choose important information by forcing you to think of **what you might put on a test**. Once you find out how close you are to predicting questions that will be on the test, the momentum will start and your confidence will build. Additionally, you are asked to look at the material from another perspective – that of your instructor.
6. Self-testing forces you to **reach deeper** into what you're studying, and thus give you a better picture as to how prepared you really are for a test.

References

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