

# How to Take a Quiz in College

## Two Types of Quizzes:

- Planned
- Pop

## Why do instructors give quizzes?

- To ensure that you are progressing in the class;
- To ensure that you have the appropriate foundational knowledge you need in order to move on;
- To check whether or not you are preparing for class (i.e. doing outside readings);
- To reinforce the importance of certain materials and/or points.

## What can you do to be prepared?

- Begin studying for the quiz at least a week in advance (if given that much time);
- Make yourself a study guide with important points, concepts, dates/names/facts, and questions you have;
- Visit your instructor in their office hour/make an appointment;
- Make flashcards and quiz yourself, or have a friend quiz you;
- Meet up with other people in your class to review materials;
- Ask questions in class about things you don't fully understand!
- Review your notes, your annotations in text, and re-read/-watch/-listen to the texts themselves...

## What do you do while taking the quiz?

- Be sure to use your accommodations if you have them;
- Read through the questions thoroughly to ensure you understand what they are asking (ask if you don't);
- Answer the question being asked!
- Be specific and use details and evidence in your answer;
- Relax and breath and be confident in yourself.

## What do you do if you do well?

- Take a moment to reflect on why you succeeded:
- Did you prepare well? Do you understand the materials?
- Was it luck? Or a mixture of preparation and luck?
- Take a moment to decide if you will keep the same strategy for the next quiz, or change something. Plan accordingly.
- Do something to reward yourself and celebrate. Good job.

## What do you do if you do poorly?

Ask yourself why:

- Was it because you didn't prepare the right materials, or you didn't prepare enough?
- Was it because of how you were feeling during the quiz, or something that happened right before you took it?
- Was it because you didn't understand the questions?
- Was it because you weren't expecting certain material to be on the quiz?
- Make it a point to list out ways you can improve on the next quiz
- Do this yourself, and/or with a friend, and/or with the instructor
- Review your mistakes and learn from them. Ask for help if you need it.
- It's one quiz, on one day, in one class, in one year; everyone fails! Learn from your mistakes and move on.

## How can you prepare for pop quizzes?

The same rules apply (see above).

In addition, it is about not just being prepared for a quiz, but being prepared for class overall:

- Prepare for class each and every day (3 hrs./hr. of class/week – make yourself a schedule);
- Review your notes, your annotations in text, and re-read/-watch/-listen to the texts themselves on a regular basis