

## How to Succeed in a Foreign Language!

By Professor Kathy Ozment

### GENERAL STRATEGIES

**1. Flashcards: Use the color codes!**

**A. Vocabulary:**

Initially: Very basic with English on one side and Spanish on the other.

Mid-Semester: Flash cards should now contain a sentence, semantic mapping clues, etc. ("wash" on one side, "clothes, hair, dishes" on the other side).

**B. Verb Tenses:** Students should be adding tenses to their cards.

- 2. Publisher's Website:** Whether mentioned by your professor or not, all publishers have a website which includes vocabulary and grammar quizzes.
- 3. Department Website:** Under "Resources" there are links to websites with vocabulary, grammar and culture content.
- 4. Your Professor:** Contact your professor for additional worksheets, study ideas and learner-specific issues. Your professors cannot be your individual tutors.
- 5. 10 Minutes a Day:** Watch 10 minutes of TV, YouTube, listen to music/radio in the language you are studying.
- 6. Create Your Own Sentences:** Use current vocabulary and grammar to create your own sentences in the language. Example: During a TV commercial, write five sentences in the past tense. Write a sentence and identify the components of the sentence: subject, verb, object.
- 7. Be a Nerd:** Use dead time to talk to yourself in the language - while in the shower, driving, waiting in line.

### TEST TAKING TIPS

- 1. USE THE TEST ITSELF AS A RESOURCE!**
- 2. Distributed rather than mass practice:**
  - Don't wait to study until the night before the exam
  - Break down the material into smaller, more manageable parts

3. **Know the format of the test:** Studying for an essay exam is very different from studying for a multiple choice exam.
4. **Use mnemonic devices** (warm td)
5. **Staring into space:** Time to take a break
6. **Comprehension checks:** Study/read info and then write about it
7. **Test anxiety:** Is due to a fear of not doing well that is associated with incidences of not doing well in the past or pressure you or others place on you in the present. Best prevention is good preparation.
  - Develop a mantra you can repeat to yourself before you take the exam: "I will do the best I can; I have prepared myself."
8. **Listening comprehension sections of the exams:**
  - Taped section comes directly from the workbook. Doing these exercises beforehand will prepare you well.
  - Oral questions on the exam are all questions that have been asked in class. If you are having difficulty, write down the question and come back to it later.
9. **Oral exams:** You have everything given to you. Requires practice to feel comfortable and confident.