

Top 10 Lists

Top 10 lists are used in a variety of ways in American culture. From David Letterman's famous Top 10 List to on-line sources of Top 10 jokes, sports moments, green ideas, medical breakthroughs, video games, campaign gaffes, science discoveries, vacation spots, books, TV ads, songs, quotes, toys.....and the list goes on.

In the educational setting, Top 10 Lists can be used as a learner-centered instructional process in which small groups of 3-5 students work interdependently to create a list to reinforce instructional goals. Examples could be:

- Best Study Practices
- Best Ways to Study for a Test
- Best Things to Do in Class to Succeed
- Best Resources to Help You Succeed
- Common Mistakes Students Make
- 10 Ways to Good Health
- Top 10 Successful Writing Techniques
- What Good Math Students Do
- Successful Job Interview Techniques
- Time Management Techniques
- Healthy Eating Ideas
- Essential Items in an Hurricane Emergency Kit, Medicine Cabinet, or First Aid Kit

For this activity, use a variation of the familiar **Think/Write-Pair-Share** classroom technique developed by Frank Lyman to get students actively involved in class.

Think-Pair-Share

1. Think about your answer individually
2. Pair with a partner and discuss your answers
3. Share your answer(s) when called upon

Write-Pair-Share

1. Write your answer individually
2. Pair with a partner and discuss your answers
3. Share your answer(s) when called upon

Directions: **Write-Share-Listen-Discuss-Create**

1. Pose a question such as "What are the 10 best ways to study?" and ask students to write their answers individually.
2. Form small groups and ask them to share their answers with the group and to listen to other group member's answers.
3. Encourage them to discuss similarities and differences.
4. Ask them to create and record on newsprint a group list that incorporates the best ideas.
5. Ask each group to present their Top 10 List to the class.
6. Discuss similarities and differences of the Top 10 Lists.

7. If you wish, compare the lists to a Master List that you have prepared based on information you have found in textbooks, the web, other teachers, or your own personal experiences.
8. Follow up with Journal Writing and/or Class Discussion
 - What additional suggestions do you have for each of these topics?
 - Do you agree or disagree with any of the Master List suggestions, and why?
 - Which practices have you used before, and what were your experiences with them?
 - Rate yourself on each of the strategies. Identify at least two strategies that you would like to improve. Develop a Plan of Action for applying the information during the next month.

Sample Master Lists

<http://www.oncourseworkshop.com/Getting%20On%20Course019.htm>

Best Study Practices

1. Read assigned texts/handouts
2. Don't procrastinate
3. Pay attention to the organization of the text
4. Highlight key points/terms in text as you read
5. Review often!
6. Study with a study group
7. Get help before it's too late
8. Do homework assignments
9. Make an outline or take notes of your reading
10. Set aside a quiet place to study with few distractions

Best Ways to Study for a Test

1. Review and reorganize notes
2. Review text summaries and highlighted points
3. Get together with study partners (choose ones who are serious about succeeding)
4. Complete study guides
5. Ask questions you are unclear on before the exam/understand what is being tested
6. Make practice tests
7. Don't procrastinate
8. Read assigned texts/handouts
9. Make note cards
10. Eat well and get enough sleep

Best Things to Do in Class to Succeed

1. Ask questions and participate
2. Take notes that you can understand
3. Attend class
4. Pay attention (turn off cell phone)
5. Come prepared
6. Sit where you can see and hear the instructor
7. Tell instructor if you are having trouble with the way he/she is teaching
8. Get to know the instructor (go to office hours)
9. Read applicable text before class so you know what to expect
10. Eat well and get enough sleep

Best Resources to Help You Succeed

1. Instructor
2. Study partner for each subject (choose successful students)
3. Tutor
4. Library
5. Student Success Center
6. Teaching Assistants
7. Study Group
8. You – be proactive
9. Professionals in the subject
10. Select internet resources

Common Mistakes Students Make

1. Not attending class
2. Not taking responsibility for themselves
3. Procrastinating
4. Not asking questions when something is unclear
5. Not spending enough time studying (for every 1 hr in class, should study 2-3 hours outside of class)
6. Not getting help soon enough
7. Not taking notes
8. Not answering questions fully on homework and tests
9. Not completing assignments and being up-to-date on material
10. Being passive

Ten Ways to Good Health

1. Less Alcohol, More Tea
2. Less Meat, More Vegetables
3. Less Salt, More Vinegar
4. Less Sugar, More Fruit
5. Less Eating, More Chewing
6. Less Words, More Action
7. Less Greed, More Giving
8. Less Worry, More Sleep
9. Less Driving, More Walking
10. Less Anger, More Laughter