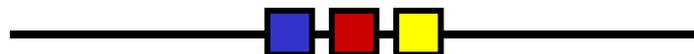
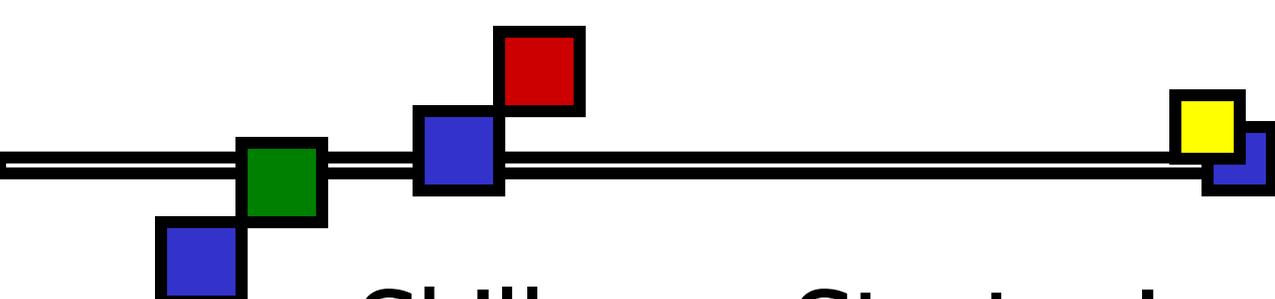


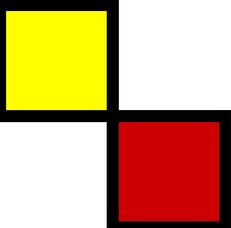
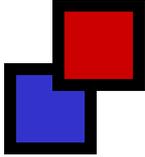
Study Smarter Workshop: Study and Test Taking Strategies

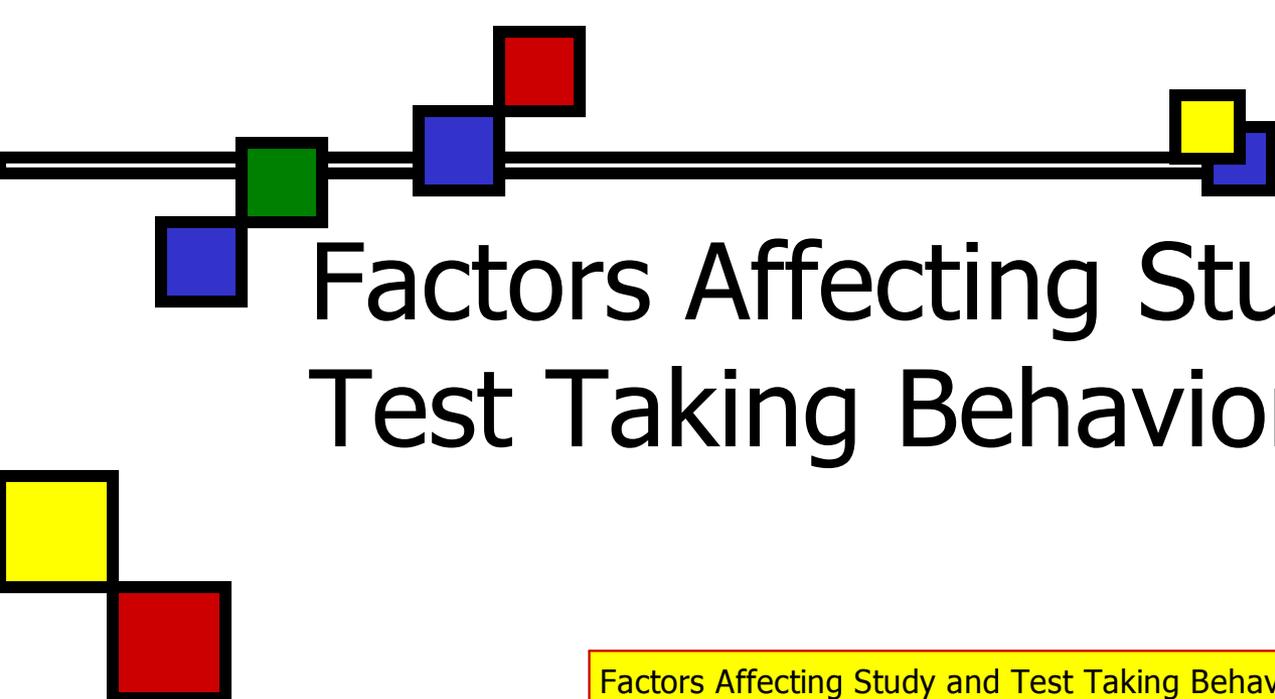


Barb Putman
Dean of Arts and Sciences



Skills vs. Strategies

- 
- You may have study and test taking *skills*, but unless you're **applying** them regularly you may not be developing the most efficient *strategies*.
 - Skills are learned.
 - Strategies are **applied** skills.
- 



Factors Affecting Study and Test Taking Behaviors

Factors Affecting Study and Test Taking Behaviors

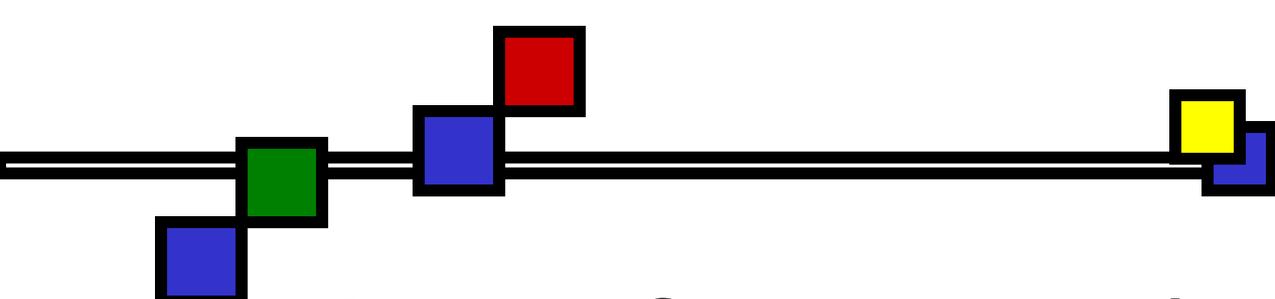
Motivation
Locus of Control

Environment
Distractions
Stress

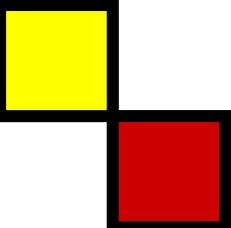
Background Knowledge
Prior experience

Current Experience
in course
in school
at work and home

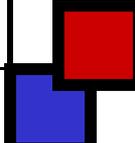
Learning Preferences

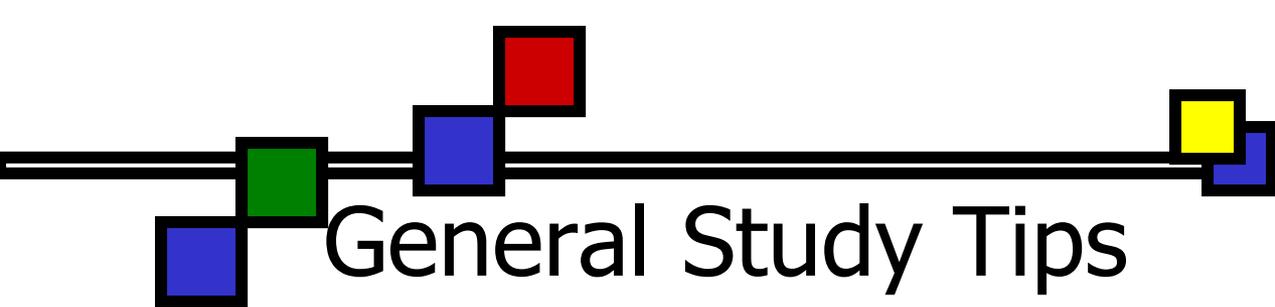


Learning preferences and study strategies

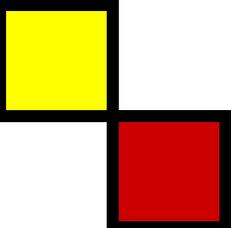
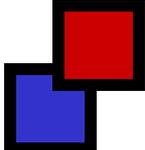


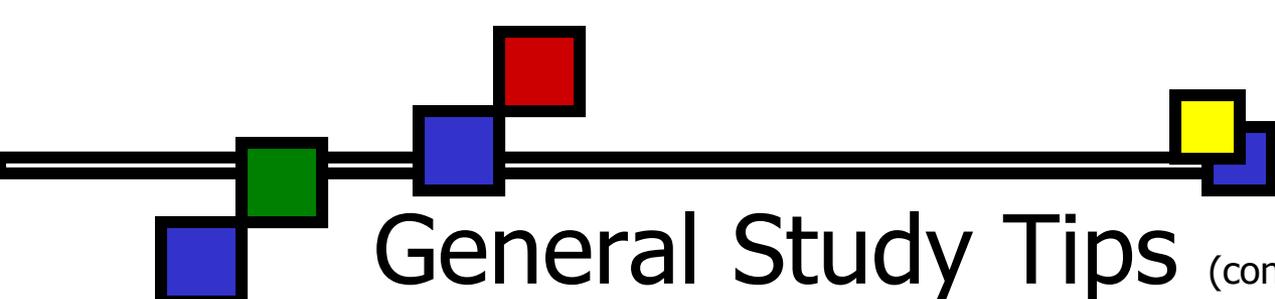
	Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic
Preferred classroom techniques	Notes, handouts, text, video	Lecture, guest speakers, discussion	Labs, field trips, application activities
Study preferences	Annotations, concept maps, visualization	Study partner(s), recitation, audio books	Study partner(s), concept maps
Test preferences	Paper-and-pencil test	Oral exam	Demonstration



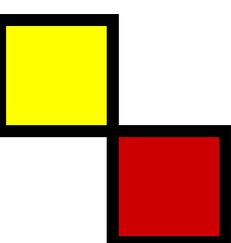
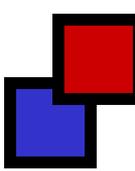


General Study Tips

- 
- “Own” the material. Relate to your own life. Reorganize material based on your learning preferences.
 - Develop a habit of formulating questions as you read and study (Who? What? Where? Why? How? Related to? Significance?)
 - Predict test questions based on quizzes, homework assignments, and other tests. Before the test, ask questions about format, content, weighting, and expectations. Also, investigate text and web-based course supplements.
 - Review early and often.
- 



General Study Tips (continued)

- Be selective about what to study. Don't waste time reviewing what you already know.
 - Develop a study system based on your learning preferences. Study in blocks of time appropriate for your lifestyle and learning preferences. Reward yourself for successful study sessions.
 - Be careful not to ignore one area to prepare for an exam in another. You'll lead yourself into a constant game of catch-up.
 - Supplement your coursework with a variety of related materials (especially "recommended reading" from instructors.) You'll put yourself at an advantage—generally your interest, background knowledge and motivation will increase and thus your need for long study sessions will decrease!
- 
- 



General Test-Taking Tips

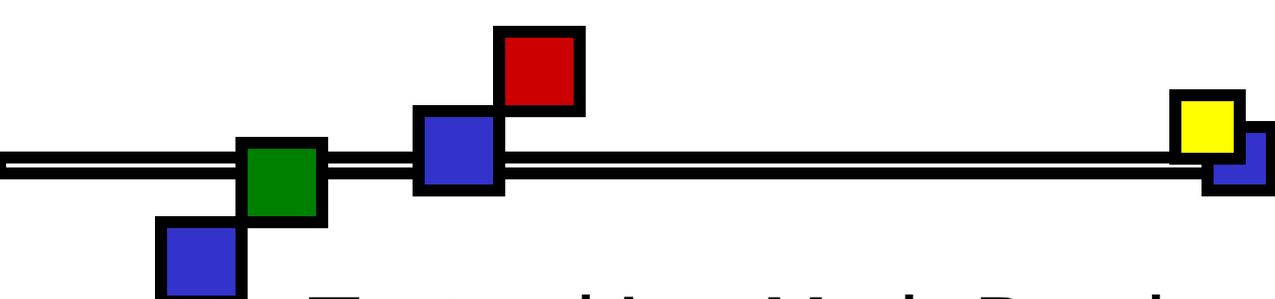
- Prepare test materials the night before (pens, pencils, scratch paper, and--if allowed—notes and dictionary.)
- Arrive on time. Sit near the front or in your normal spot. Take deep breaths. Think positively.
- Jot down memory cues (in the margins or on the back of the test paper) as soon as you get the test.
- Survey the entire test before starting.
- READ DIRECTIONS!!!
- Plan and use all time.
- Skip and return to challenging questions.
- Guess (if no penalty—Ask first!)



Study Strategies for Specific Subjects

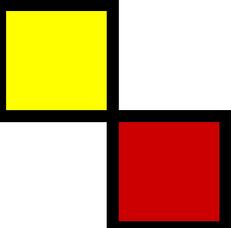
Health Sciences and Math

- APPLY facts, definitions, and processes in real-life scenarios.
- Use flash cards to rehearse vocabulary, steps in a process/procedure, or parts of a system.
- Photocopy diagrams and other visuals from your text, notes, and handouts. White-out the explanations and keys; then try to annotate the visuals yourself.
- Use practice questions/problems in book. Design your own as you're reading. Write your own chapter summaries, then compare to the text or to your notes to test your knowledge.
- Work with classmates to predict test questions.
- APPLY facts, definitions, and processes in real-life scenarios.
- Use concept maps to show cause/effect and comparison/contrast relationships.

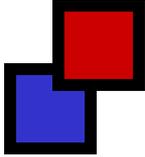


Test-taking Myth Breaker

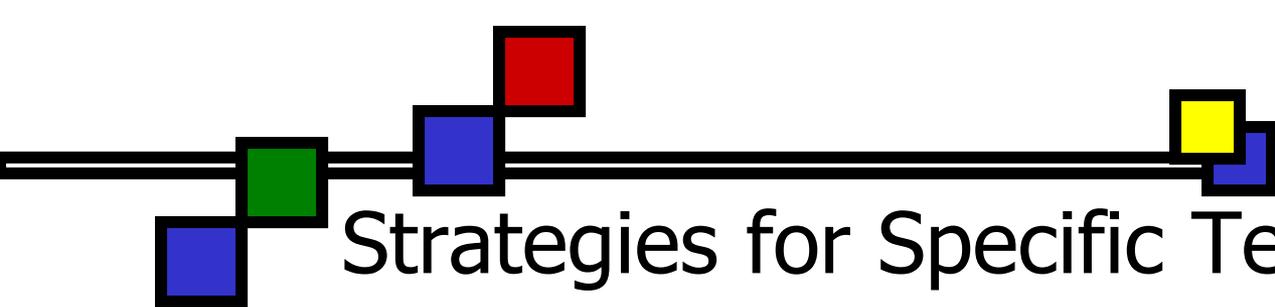
Contrary to popular belief that first instincts are always right, research has shown that strong test-takers are willing to change their answers during a multiple choice test.



Use a ? to note responses you're unsure about. While proofreading, you may rethink your response.

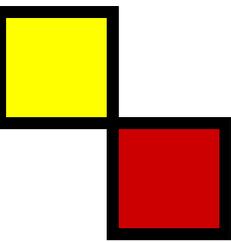


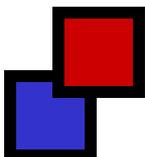
If you've prepared yourself well, it may be to your advantage to change answers.



Strategies for Specific Test Types

Multiple choice

- 
- Read each question completely. M.C. items in college are not just busy-work. They usually require critical thinking as you determine differences between shades of meaning.
 - Underline or circle key words.
 - Answer in your mind first, then look for similar choice.
 - Cross out clearly wrong answers.

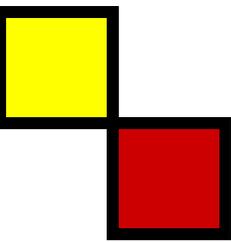
 - Watch out for absolutes (never, all, must.) They are often warning clues that a choice may be wrong.
 - Look for qualifiers (rarely, some, may.) they are often clues that a choice may be correct.
 - If two options are similar, one is probably the answer.
 - If two choices are opposites, one is probably the answer.
- 



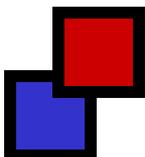
Strategies for Specific Test Types

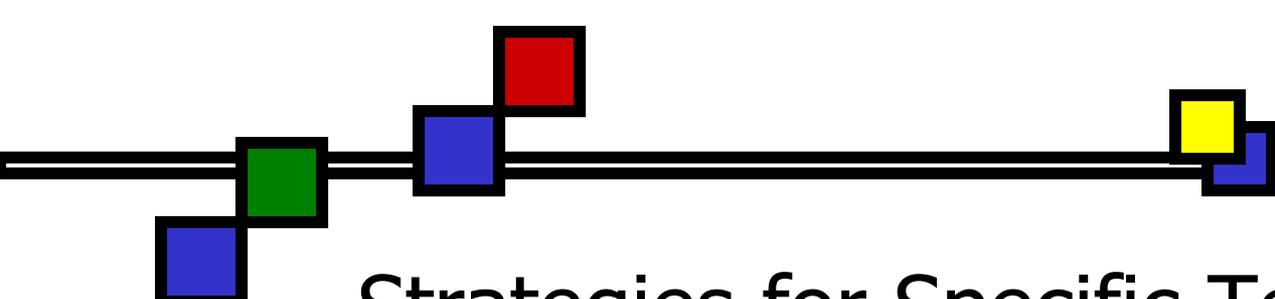
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Fill-in

- 
- Look for clues in the incomplete sentence. What kind of response is expected: a date? a name? a key term?
 - Use similar language to rest of test.
 - Check grammatical agreement.
 - Don't be distracted by length of space or line.

True/False

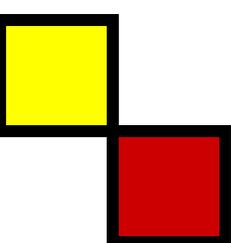
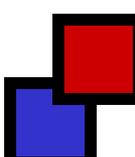
- 
- Assume false if the item uses absolute words (always, never); you can usually find an exception to an absolute statement.
 - Assume false if any part is false.
 - Don't spend a lot of time on T/F items; they're usually worth fewer points than other sections.



Strategies for Specific Test Types

(continued)

Short answer and essay

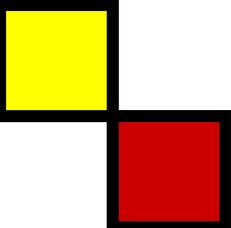
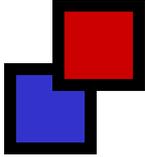
- 
- Ask about point values if they're not noted on the test.
 - Even if you feel pressed for time, don't just start writing frantically.
 - Focus on the guide words in the prompt. Words such as criticize, trace, discuss, demonstrate, outline have special meaning in an essay situation. Watch for multi-part questions.
 - Neatness counts, but not so much that you should waste time merely recopying an essay. Write clearly the first time. Follow an organized writing process (brainstorm, organize, draft, revise, edit.) Leave yourself room to add details/clarify points as you proofread your response. Only write on one side of the paper. Leave margins clear. Don't make distracting scratch outs.
- 

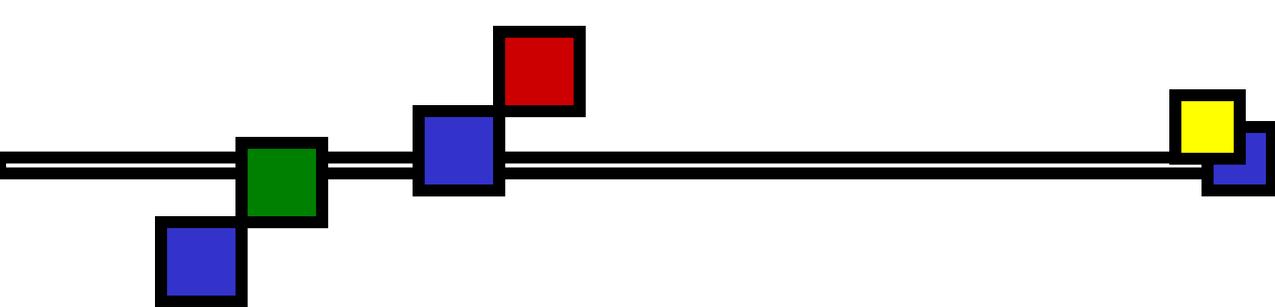


Strategies for Specific Test Types

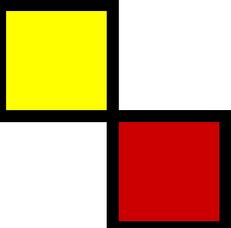
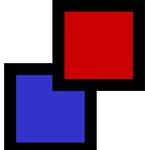
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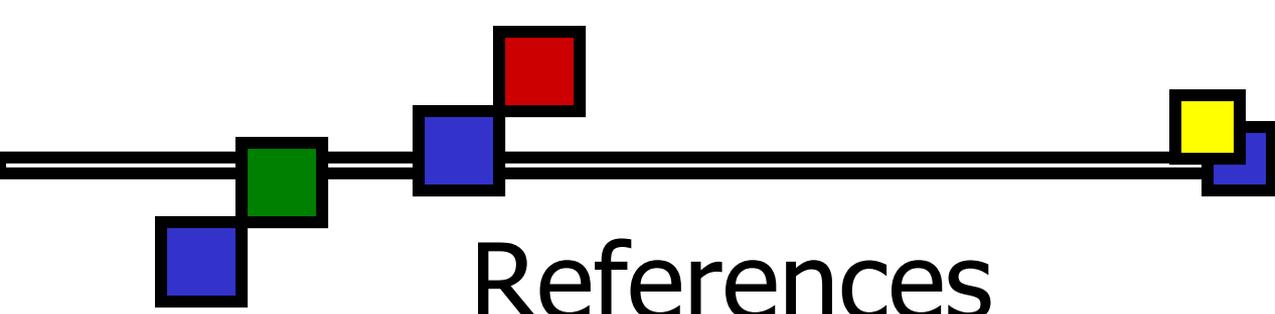
Short answer and essay (continued)

- 
- Begin your response with a rephrasing of the test question. Next, state your position or educated opinion. Then, provide a list of supporting details in sentence form. Finally, summarize your position and make a strong final statement (such as predicting future action or consequences.)
 - If you're almost out of time, sketch out the major points you would have addressed in the essay (in a concept map, list, or informal outline)—instructors often give partial credit.
 - If you feel like you're drawing a complete blank, close your eyes and put down your pen for a moment. Relax. Then, start making a list of everything you can think of that even remotely relates to the topic. You might find a couple of ideas by scanning back over the test itself or by visualizing your notes or text. Finally, begin an essay using the system noted above. You may not get full credit, or even close, but some attempt is better than nothing.
- 

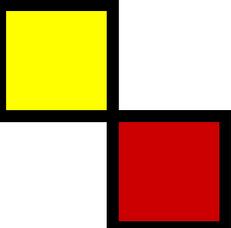


Final Recommendations

- 
- Learn from your mistakes.
 - Review returned tests.
 - Identify your strengths and weaknesses regarding the material covered on the test.
 - Evaluate your test-taking skills by comparing your performance on each section.
- 



References

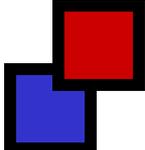


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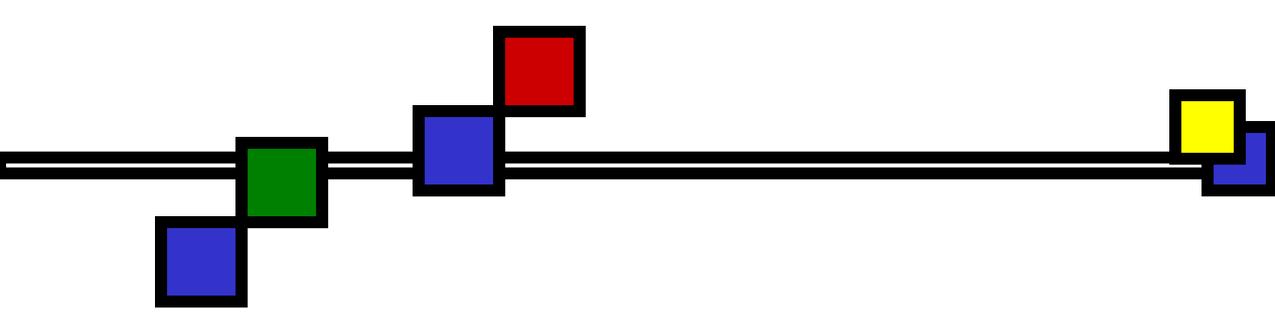
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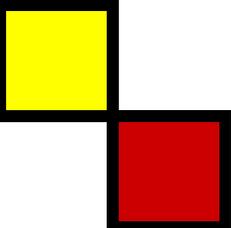
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What will you do now?

- 
- List three strategies you will apply when studying for or taking your next test:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- 