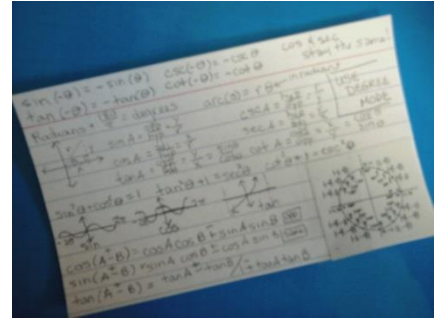


"Mock" Memory Cards

Since memory cards are rarely allowed on math tests, students rarely make them. Why bother? Well, half the benefit of a memory card comes from creating it! Studying it also has benefits in preparing you for the test.



Benefits to Creating the Card:

1. The greatest benefit is in *organizing* your thoughts. Organizing is an under-valued memory booster. Research showed that a group of people who organized word lists remembered them as well as another group who were told to memorize them.
2. Another benefit is *prioritizing*. Everything that could possibly be on the exam will not fit on a single index card. So what to choose? Your process of deciding what is most important to remember is an important study technique.
3. By having to prioritize and consolidate the information on a small card, you may have noticed some *patterns* in the information that will help you remember them later.
4. By writing down specific information – especially since you need to focus to conserve space – you have looked at the information repeatedly and used motion, potentially creating some visual and kinesthetic links to the information.

Benefits to Studying the Card:

1. You've reduced what you are studying. Rather than the distracting process of flipping through homework pages, study guides, notes and the book, you have a single card – maybe front and back – to *focus your attention* on.
2. You are looking at the same information repeatedly. While *repetition* isn't the strongest or most entertaining memory technique, it is helpful. And you can use mnemonics.
3. This is information you've decided is most important, and it's something you can look at right up until materials must be put away for the exam. Those points aren't so true of other study materials.

Creating a Mock Memory Card:

1. Use a 3 x 5 card. The larger ones just let you clutter more information and you lose some of the prioritizing and organizing benefits. You can use both sides, but decide which side is more important. Flipping the card as you study adds to some of the distraction and anxiety, and you lose some of the memory benefits.
2. Decide how to organize it. You may want to start by listing some of the information you feel is important on a piece of paper. Then consolidate it down to what you really need and will fit on the index card. If you're visual, use color and shape meaningfully.
3. Keep the card handy to study. Can you recite parts of what's on it with your eyes closed?

**** Extra Credit in DSPS 33 (10 pts):** Show me a mock memory card that you created for one of your math exams. Afterwards, evaluate how well you prioritized what you needed to memorize, awarding yourself from 0 -5 points. Mark that figure in red somewhere on your card.