

SLAC TIPS FOR MODERN LANGUAGE COURSES

- * **WORK** consistently for short periods of time—about 30 minutes—but do this **EVERY DAY!**
- * **USE** the dictionary.
- * **READ** grammar rules and explanations more than once.
- * **ASK** questions.
- * **ASK** your instructor and your SLAC counselor to explain items you have difficulty understanding. If you do not understand, you can not really learn.
- * **ASK** your instructor what helpful resources, such as **501 French Verbs** (also available for German and Spanish), are available to help you learn difficult topics such as conjugation of verbs.
- * **MEMORIZE** conjugation, vocabulary, gender, and grammar rules.
- * **DO NOT MISS CLASS!**
- * **ACCEPT** the fact that the language you are learning sometimes has its own crazy rules and regulations. It is not going to be a mirror image of English.
- * **USE** tutoring services **AFTER** you have first tried to understand and solve the problems by yourself. Bring **SPECIFIC** questions to your tutor.
- * **SEEK HELP** a couple of days before an assignment is due. Do not wait until the last minute, and **DO NOT** wait for your first "D" or "F." Get help early in the semester!
- * **KNOW** your textbook. You will be surprised by how much help you can get if you know where to look!
- * **WHENEVER** you are assigned written work, try to compose it first in the language you are studying, instead of first writing in English and then translating. Bring your work to a SLAC Counselor if you need help in verifying accuracy.
- * **IF** you hope to excel in the language you are learning, do not just do the homework. Keep up with new verb conjugations, review old verbs and tenses, and prepare for the next class session.
- * **ORGANIZE** a conversation group or ask a SLAC counselor to speak to you (or read aloud) in the language you are learning. This can help you perfect your pronunciation.
- * **REMEMBER** that learning a new language can be fun, and that it took you at least 18 years to learn the amount of English you know today, so do not expect to learn a new language perfectly in one year. Work hard but have realistic goals.

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