



# LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY PERKS & FINALS INFO • VOL. 3, ISSUE 4 • DECEMBER 2016

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we wind down 2016 and head toward Christmas we are quickly approaching our first round of finals for the year. This year's schedule is a bit different than in previous years as we will start on a Friday, December 16th, take our weekend off and then restart finals on Monday, December 19, finishing up on Tuesday, December 20th. As I keep reminding the students, if we don't start on Friday we'd be taking tests on Wednesday! Friday sounds good to me too.

Finals are intimidating as they challenge us to look back on the year reflect on what we have learned and require us to recall that information on the spot one last time. One tip for success is to find out exactly what you need to do on this test to either hold on to the grade you have right now or bump that grade up. This can help you prioritize as there are some classes which more attention than others. Beef up your everyday routine with tips from the Learning Center from our past issues (nested on the Resources for Students page).

Utilizing simple strategies and honing them in to your personal strengths makes for sound study skills and ultimately success!

Merry Christmas & a very Happy New Year!

- Amy Harms

### FOLLOW US



**SPOTIFY.** New study playlists available now! Playlists are updated monthly. [Click here to listen.](#)



**TWITTER.** Look out for #dailyLC & #WildcatLC for daily study tips and more! @Wildcat\_LC

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES

**DECEMBER 13.** Snack & Study in the Commons. Get your questions answered before the test!

**FINALS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20.** [The Extended Time Finals Schedule is here.](#) [Create your own Finals Schedule here.](#) Open these in Notability!

**JUNIORS:** Remember to begin the registration process for spring ACT/SAT testing. The accommodations process for the ACT are different from the SAT, so get a head start over break!

### REMINDERS

#### FINAL EXAM DAY PROCESS.

All students must arrive at school no later than 8:45 AM if they are using 50% Extended Time. All 50% Extended Time tests will start promptly at 9 AM.

If a student is approved for 100% Extended Time, he or she must check in at **ROOM 311** by 7:45 AM.

Testing for all approved 100% Extended Time testers will begin promptly at 8 AM.

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Finals FRQs. Do you know what you need for test day?

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What are the perks of a Library Card?

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Last minute study tips that will stick with you.

# THE 5 W'S OF FINALS

# FINALS FAQ'S

## WHERE DO I NEED TO BE ON TEST DAY?

Meet in front of Room **311** at least 15 minutes before your testing slot.

## HOW DO I KNOW WHICH FINALS SLOT I'LL BE TESTING IN?

Check the [Extended Time Finals Schedule](#) to determine what slot you're testing (either 1, 2, or both).

## WHAT ROOM WILL I TAKE MY FINAL IN?

There will be signs in front of 311 that will tell you which room you are testing in. Don't assume you will be in the same room for all of your finals. **Please check the wall before every final.**

## 100% EXTENDED TIME TESTER?

We have emailed you individually.

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## WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING WITH ME?

When in doubt... BRING EVERYTHING.

Here are a few items to keep in mind:

- calculator
- binder paper
- graph paper
- pens
- pencils
- highlighters
- a charged iPad
- chargers
- laptop if you own one **(with Lockdown Browser installed)**
- notes if it's an open note test, etc.

**Due to the number of students testing, we won't be able to loan you a calculator, batteries, chargers, etc. Please bring the supplies you will need.**

What the LC can provide: Limited amounts of pens, pencils, binder paper, graph paper, and highlighters.

# WHY SHOULD I GET A LIBRARY CARD?

## RESOURCES

It's no surprise that the Library offers a ton of amazing resources. Your library card gives you access to ebooks, laptops, online homework help, study rooms, remote access to online library services, online and in-person reference materials, as well as assistive services like large-print newspapers, reading machines, books on tape, and assistive software enabled computer workstations. See the library website for more information about these services, or visit your local library to speak with a librarian.

It's easy  
& fun!



### Learning Differences Collection 5th Floor of the SF Main Library

The library has an additional section for students with learning differences. Parents and students alike can read about ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalcula, and more.

Go to:  
[sfpl.org/learningdifferences](http://sfpl.org/learningdifferences)  
for more information about events & resources.

## HOW TO APPLY

It's SUPER easy! All California residents can apply for a library card online; however, you must pick up the card in-person at any library location within 30 days of submitting your request. In case you didn't already know, all library services are FREE and open to the public. There are SO many resources available to you – use them!

Already have a library card? You can renew your account in person, online, by phone, or by email. Your library card expires every 4 years, so speak with a librarian if you're not sure about your card.

**EBOOKS & BOOKS ON TAPE.** Think of the library as audible.com, but completely free! They have an entire collection of downloadable ebooks and/or books on tape. Need a book for English class? Would you rather listen to the book instead? Check out the library before purchasing a subscription to one of the popular ebook websites. Both can be helpful, but only one is free!

## THE LIBRARY AT SI

Don't forget the fantastic resources we have right here on campus! Similar to the public library, the SI library offers access to research databases, books, magazines, equipment, and information that will help you cite sources for papers or class projects. The Library is open M-F until 5 and on Fridays until 3:30; however, you can access some of their online resources at any timing by logging in with you SI email and password. For more information visit [www.siprep.org/library](http://www.siprep.org/library).

# ...BUT I KNOW HOW TO STUDY.

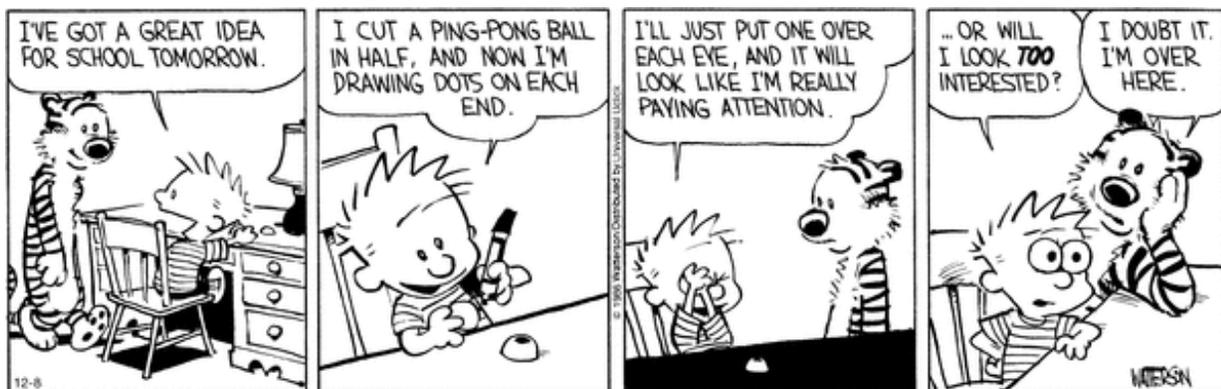
*study tips for the students who "know everything."*

## IMPROVING MEMORY

- **BE VISUAL.** Make your study guide look presentable, as if you were creating it for someone else. Do you make something look “nice” before you give it to your teacher? Don’t focus on making your notes look perfect. Instead, create notes you’ll want to study from.
- **ANNOTATE, THEN ANNOTATE AGAIN.** If you’re planning on re-reading your text or notes, try adding another “active” study element like highlighting or annotating. Print out your Notability notes if you’re sick of looking at your iPad. Turn your “passive” notes into [Cornell notes](#) by adding questions to each page. Then, quiz yourself when you’re done. Try not to pull directly from the book – use your own words.
- **MAP IT OUT.** Are you still struggling with a question or concept? See if you can clear up any confusion by making a [concept map](#) with flashcards or drawing a labeled, detailed diagram in your notes. Ask your teacher if you need help making some of the “connections.”
- **USE POST-IT NOTES.** Post-it notes are great tools for quizzing yourself or creating concept maps. With post-it notes you can easily sort concepts into lists or categories. For example, if you’re having difficulty creating a timeline for World History, try writing the events, dynasties, etc. on post-it notes. Then, quiz yourself by placing them on a timeline. Are you studying with friends? Make this into a game!
- **GET SOME SLEEP.** 30 minutes of studying or 30 minutes of sleep? CHOOSE SLEEP. EVERY. TIME.
- **WORDS WITH FRIENDS.** Need to memorize some tough material? Try teaching it to a friend. If you have trouble explaining a concept, you probably need to go back to your notes.
- **JUST START.** The hardest part of studying is starting, so don’t be afraid to make the first move. Set a small goal, like “read 3 pages of notes.” Setting easy to reach goals when you first begin studying will help you gain momentum in the long run.

## IMPROVING ORGANIZATION & FOCUS

- **USE COLOR.** Take a creative approach to studying! Use highlighters, markers, or colored pens and pencils to help you keep your questions and/or notes organized.
- **DAY BY DAY.** Don’t assume you will be able to focus on one subject on a given day. Instead, chunk your work into smaller, more digestible sessions.
- **MAKE A PLAN.** Similar to “chunking,” weekly planning can make a big difference in creating the time you need to study. Include “fun” hobbies or activities in this planning to give yourself a break. Your brain will thank you later!



All 2016 – 2017 newsletters are written and/or compiled by Katie Marconi, Learning Coordinator, unless otherwise noted.