



# THANKFUL

**INTRODUCTION:** The first weekend of December is the perfect opportunity to prepare for the last few weeks of the semester. Use these “quick tips” to help you stay productive and motivated.

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## ...BUT WHAT DOES “BEING ORGANIZED” LOOK LIKE?

It depends on the person and their preferred method! But here are a few tips to keep in mind.

1. **BINDER VS. FOLDERS.**
2. **OUTLINE VS. CONCEPT MAP.**
3. **SENTENCES VS. BULLET POINTS.**
4. **LISTENING VS. READING.**
5. **MUSIC VS. QUIET.**
6. **BLACK/BLUE VS. COLORS.**
7. **STUDY SCHEDULE VS. FREE FORM.**

Whatever you choose, understand that this preference may change, and that’s OK. The first step is experimenting with different methods to find out what works for you. You may find that you can use outlines in History, but need concept maps for Science. When is a good time to play with different study strategies? ASAP.

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## ...BUT WHAT CAN I ACTUALLY DO?

Staying productive during the weekend doesn’t just mean studying! There are lots of ways to stay ahead.

1. **WHAT SHOULD MY BACKPACK LOOK LIKE BEFORE I LEAVE SCHOOL FOR THE WEEK?** Your backpack shouldn’t be empty! If anything, you should take this time to go through your course materials. For example: Are there a ton of papers in your locker? Bring them home and organize them!
2. **HOW MANY HOURS DO I ACTUALLY HAVE EACH WEEKEND?** You have (approx.) 48+ hours free from school, but NOT free from responsibility! Be smart about the time you have, and don’t stress about the time spent with friends and family. Learning how to strike a balance is all part of the process.
3. **CREATE A LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR MY TEACHERS.** Teachers don’t respond to statements like “I don’t get it,” or questions like “What do I need to know for the final?” Show them you’ve already done some of the work – come to class prepared with content-specific questions.

## HOW TO BUILD A STUDY GUIDE: 6 QUICK TIPS

These tips are to help you get started **now**.

1. **CHECK YOUR SYLLABUS.** Your teacher will most likely organize the course into chapters or units at the beginning of the year. Here are a few things to look for: unit headings, chapter headings, key terms or phrases, and time spent on concepts.
  2. **MAKE A LIST OF TOPICS.** Think about ideas which required multiple lectures, projects, or test questions. Consider the “bold ideas,” ideas highlighted, bolded, or otherwise noted in your text/notes.
  3. **ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS.** Where have I struggled? What concepts remain unclear to me? How important is this test to my grade? How can this test help/hurt me?
  4. **CHECK YOUR ASSESSMENTS.** What has your teacher identified as important information in the past? What did you get wrong? How did you correct yourself, and do you understand the concept now? How does your teacher test? What’s the style (multiple choice, free response, T/F, etc.)?
  5. **NO TWO SUBJECTS ARE THE SAME.** Don’t get in a “study rut.” Different subjects may need different study strategies, so don’t assume your study methods for Math will look identical to those for History.
  6. **THINK YOU KNOW IT?** Ask yourself: What are the “5 W’s” for each chapter/unit? Can’t answer that from memory? Keep studying.
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### ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES:

Go to the [Resources for Students](http://www.siprep.org/LC) page of the Learning Center website ([www.siprep.org/LC](http://www.siprep.org/LC)) for the “How To” Series (topics: flashcards, test taking, weekly schedule, concept maps, “how to trick yourself into studying,” Cornell Notes, etc.).