# Introduction

So much of college involves figuring things out on your own. If you didn't do well on your last exam, use this tool to help you make a plan for your next one. If you did do well, use this tool to make sure you think about what you did right so you can repeat it.  When you're done, **save a copy of the form in a file and review it** when it's time to start preparing for your next exam as a way of reminding yourself of what you want to do differently.

Want to learn how to properly prepare for exams, read for comprehension, and more? I strongly recommend reading Daniel Willingham's [*Outsmart Your Brain: Why Learning is Hard and How You Can Make It Easy*](https://amzn.to/3DaIdza) *(affiliate link).* He's a cognitive scientist who explains the research in a really comprehensible way.

## **Get started by answering the questions below**

### 1. Class name:

### 2. Date of Exam you’re reviewing:

### 3. Grade you earned on the exam you’re reviewing:

### 4. Class average for this exam (if known)

### 5) Exam type (Highlight or bold your answer)

multiple choice

essay

Identification (IDs - typically for art history or literature classes)

solving problems

clicker

Other:

**(More questions on the next page)**

### 6) How did you prepare for the exam? \* (Highlight or bold your answer)

Sought tutoring if I didn't understand class content

Attending professor and/or TA office hours

Created flash cards and did retrieval practice

Wrote a practice essay

Studied with a peer/group where we tested each other on the class content

Solved problems from class assignments/sample problems the professor provided

Other:

\*Don't know what retrieval practice (mentioned below) is, and want to learn other ways to improve your studying? Visit my page on what study strategies have been shown effective and which ones aren't but might be tweaked to work better.

### 7) How many hours did you spend preparing for this exam? \*

### 8) What do you think about the amount of time you spent prepping? (Highlight or bold your answer)

It was the right amount of time

I should have studied more

I could have studied fewer hours

**(More questions on the next page)**

### 9) If you had planned to spend more time studying before this exam, what happened? \* (Highlight or bold your answer)

I started too close to the exam date and had other things to do

I started too close to the exam date and got sick (or had another kind of emergency)

Other:

### 10) What grade do you hope to earn on the next exam?

11) How do you plan to prepare for that exam? (Bold or highlight all that apply)

Seek tutoring if I didn't understand class content

Attending professor and/or TA office hours

Creating flash cards and doing retrieval practice

Writing a practice essay

Studying with a peer/group where we tested each other on the class content