

Homework & Getting Strategic Help

The following steps outline a recommended approach to **difficult daily assignments or problems**. It also helps address procrastination... each step is short and sweet, and if you set up appointments to get help in step 3, you have mini-deadlines that can help you stay on track.

- 1. Assess & Evaluate** -- skim to figure out what you have to do, and what looks easier or harder, put check marks ✓ or question marks ? next to each problem
- 2. Attempt** -- try all the easy stuff first, then try the harder stuff with question marks
 - Use resources -- use your book and/or notes to try and figure out the harder stuff,
but don't bang your head against a wall here
 - Identify the problem -- when you get stuck and stay stuck, write down WHY you are confused
or WHAT you don't know or understand before moving on
- 3. Strategic Intervention** -- with a classmate, peer tutor, or professor; explain (RECITE from SQ3R) what you do know and show WHY or WHAT you don't; get help based on specific Qs you identified
 - This allows you (and/with your support resources) to identify *patterns of problems*, and target *specific help* for concepts or applications that are troublesome
- 4. Reflect, Re-Attempt, Review** -- use what you've learned to try again on your own; are you doing it? did you find new stumbling blocks? can you use notes/book resources more efficiently? Keep practicing problems until you get them right, and look for challenges to attempt to help you get ready for exams. Figure out, write, and solve your own questions. Watching someone else shoot a great jump shot, even lots of times, doesn't mean you can do one yourself.