

Study Skills Tip of the Week

Sit as close to the instructor as you can on the first day of class.

Why?

Do you know that students who sit closer to the instructor get better grades? Perhaps that's true because the people who choose to sit closer to the front are the more serious students. They would get good grades n matter where they sat in the classroom. However, there is some evidence that regardless of ability, you can increase your chances for a good grade by sitting closer to the instructor. The closer you sit, the fewer visual distractions there are. The fewer distractions, the easier it is to concentrate and to take notes. And to top it off, you are much less likely to daydream if you are under the instructor's eye. So, sit as close as you dare, If the seating is assigned, wear glasses and plead nearsightedness. Just get down front.

Why would you sit there on the first day? Because students are creatures of habit. They tend to use the same seat automatically. Did you ever notice that you step over the same feet and bump into the same knees going to your seat every day? Seating position tends to be a habit. Use it to your best advantage. Sit down front and establish the habit early.

From *Instant Study Skills* by David M. Wark, Univ. of Minnesota

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