

Faculty of Community Services

Academic Support & Resource Centre

Using Flash Cards

The use of flash or cue cards as a mechanism for reviewing course material can be very effective. Simply creating such cards can work to have you grapple more deeply with materials. Here are some guidelines on how to make and use flash cards:

- You can use simple **index cards** or an application such as Anki
- On one side of a card, write a **question**, and on the other side of the card, write an **answer**
- If you use a **critical reading strategy**, such as SQ4R, you can take the questions posed in your notes and turn those into flashcards
- You can use flash cards to quiz yourself on **terms** and **formulas**, as well as higher-order concepts such as **theories** and **hypotheses**
- You might also try to create cards that are solely comprised of **questions that answer one another**; for example, on one side of a card you might ask “What is anti-oppression?” and, on the other side, you might then ask “What is the name given to the critical study of social inequality and marginalization?”
- Try to create a number of flash cards **each week** as a means for review; then, once it is time to review for the final exam, you already have a set of flash cards to use as part of your preparations
- When incorporating flash cards into your study, you might think about using them in **different ways**: you can sort questions into piles that are more difficult to answer or that pertain to a certain topic
- You can spread flash cards on a table or the ground and use them to create large **mind maps** for review
- Try not only using words on your flash cards, but also **visual cues** such as pictures and diagrams
- Try using your flash cards **wherever** and **whenever** you are able: while eating breakfast, on the subway, on your break from work!