

## Top Five Tips for Finals

-Jenn Paull

### **1. Make a Schedule**

With no classes to go to and tests spread out over five days, it's easy to slack off, sleep in, and waste a lot of time. But don't let yourself do it. A couple of weeks beforehand, sit down with your calendar and make a schedule. Schedule time for studying, eating, and getting plenty of rest. Then stick to the schedule. You'll feel better when you don't have to stay up all night cramming like a lot of other students, because you're already prepared for your test.

### **2. Get some sleep.**

It's pretty much a guarantee that you won't get 8 hours of sleep during finals week. Honestly, does *any* college student ever get that much sleep? But try to get as much as you can. All the studying in the world won't do you much good if you're nodding off during your test. Studies show that getting plenty of sleep also boosts your memory, so listen to your body when it tells you it's tired.

### **3. Pick a study tactic and stick with it.**

Some students study well in groups, while others bury themselves in a back corner of the stacks and work in silence. Some think that flash cards help them remember information best, while others have friends quiz them. Figure out what works best for you and stick with it. Now is not the time to explore new study tactics. Don't waste your time studying with friends or making flash cards if you know it probably won't help you. If something has worked well for you in the past then make that your main strategy when preparing for your exams.

### **4. Talk to your professor or TA.**

If you have questions, ask the experts. Your professor and TAs are there to help you in exactly this type of situation. Try to tackle your study guides early so that you have plenty of time to get feedback. If you wait until the night before, there's a good chance you won't get the answer in time.

### **5. Make a study guide.**

Speaking of study guides, make sure you do them! Your teacher didn't spend time making one if it wasn't going to help you, so make sure you complete it in its entirety. You might consider breaking it up amongst other friends in the class. Services like Google Docs let multiple people edit a document at the same time, so you can all contribute from separate computers.

## Love Reading?

Reading for fun has always been a hobby of mine. After moving to Missouri, I came to realize that there were others like me. Each of us, besides loving to read, shares a common problem – finding the time to read. Together we are working to create a book club for Mizzou's book lovers. Our goal is to read one selected book each month then get together and discuss it. If you love to read and would like to find out more information about our group then please contact Brandi at [bdsqn8@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:bdsqn8@mail.missouri.edu)

Study Hint: Ellis will be open until 4 a.m. most nights during finals, and the Bookmark Café will be open until midnight May 9-11! Also, the Café will serve free coffee on those nights at midnight!

### **Make Fun of Me: I Have a Favorite Online Database** –Liz Criswell

Need some inspiration for a difficult essay? Look no further than Project MUSE. Accessing Project MUSE is easy; you get to it just like you would any other online database Mizzou provides. (Library website > Databases tab at the top > P > Project MUSE) It provides full-text articles, most of which have abstracts. (Keys to good research: A good summary before you waste your time reading the whole thing, and then the ability to do so if you decide to.) Project MUSE has saved me as I wrote my English capstone papers. Because most of the articles are printed on university presses, there is a wide variety of material from many different time periods. What has been particularly helpful is that it provides extensive commentaries on more modern works. Project MUSE also has texts in the social sciences and mathematics. Next time you need to get creative with your research paper (not a euphemism for plagiarism), look to your MUSE.