

Independent Learning

(the art of gaining knowledge on one's own, without relying on the support of others)

Dependent Learner	Independent Learner
You predominantly respond to the pressures of the system through deadlines, penalties & marks.	You respond to the external pressures, but you are also seeking personal satisfaction and want to learn as much as you can.
The content and resources are determined by your teachers.	Although your teachers have given guidance on the resources you need, you happily seek out your own resources and do wider reading.
You follow your teacher's instructions to the letter and don't go much beyond that. You find that sufficient.	You are keen to develop personal strategies for learning. You regard your teacher's instructions as just a starting point.
You find little opportunity in your studies to do this.	You are keen to reflect on what and how you learn.

What constitutes independent learning in English?

Before the lesson

- ☺ Re-reading relevant sections of your key text prior to the lesson to help you participate
- ☺ Reviewing class and homework notes – this means re-drafting these notes in another form (pictorial or written i.e. mindmaps, reducing a page of information to half a page etc.) and applying your understanding of this learning in your analytical writing
- ☺ Make a note of key questions relating to your recent learning to share in the lesson.

During the lesson

- ☺ Make a note of key questions relating to your recent learning to share in the lesson.
- ☺ Share your ideas, research, secondary reading and resources you have created (mind maps etc.)

After the lesson

- ☺ Re-reading texts we have annotated in class and adding to these annotations, adding questions using post-its.
- ☺ When studying a particular chapter from a prose text or an entire, making use of online study guides such as www.litcharts.com, www.sparknotes.com, www.schmoop.com etc. to develop your existing text annotations and notes.
- ☺ Devise mnemonics for key terminology
- ☺ Form a reading group to discuss more informally the themes, ideas and contextual factors raised in the previous lesson relating to your text – you will feel more comfortable asking questions
- ☺ Online forums and blogs to discuss texts and exchange research
- ☺ *Actively acting on feedback!* Responding to the further comments and targets given on AOF assignments