

“I’ve fallen,
and I can’t get up!”

Strategies for
Academic First Responders
Arthur W. Wellborn Jr., Ed.D.

A day in the life of a professor

The Elephant in the room

“Do I have to buy the book?”

“I never had to write a paper before.”

“Which one is the space bar?”

“I haven’t been to school in over 10 years!”

“I have to get a screen shot because Microsoft isn’t compatible with Word.”

(You don’t have to own their anxiety.)

1. Triage Questions

Academic First Responders - 5Ws

Who is your instructor?

What is your assignment?

Where is your work?

When is it due?

Why are you struggling?

How can I help you?

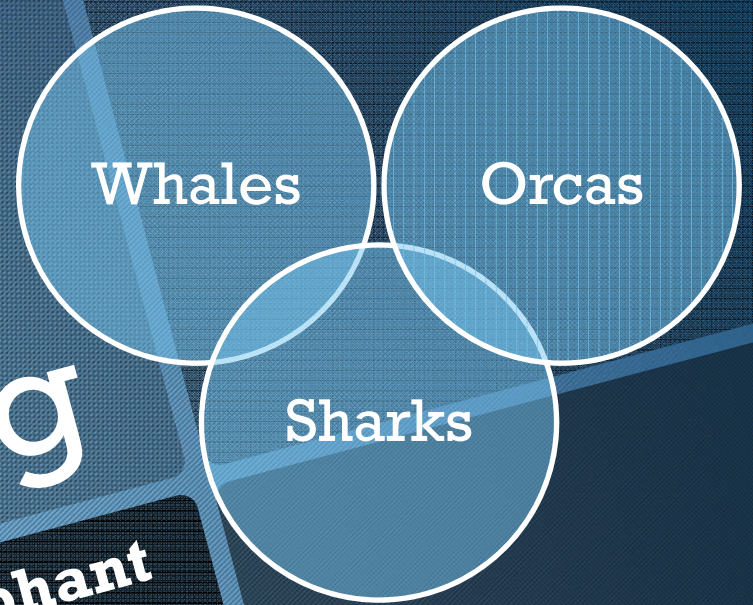
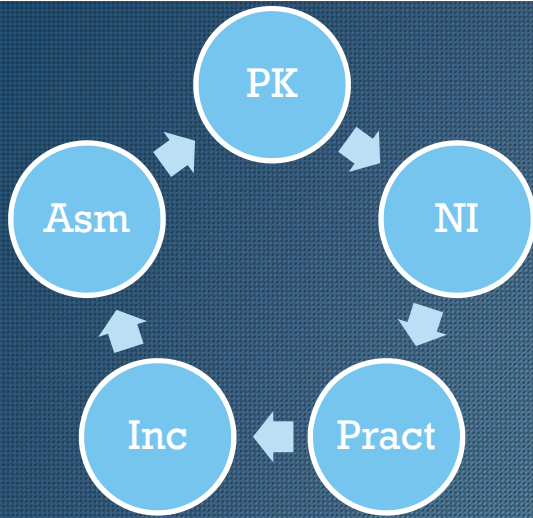
2. Reading Texts

Eating the Elephant - SQ3R

Before: Survey – **bold**, *italics*, graphics ➡
Question – Prior Knowledge, 5 Ws

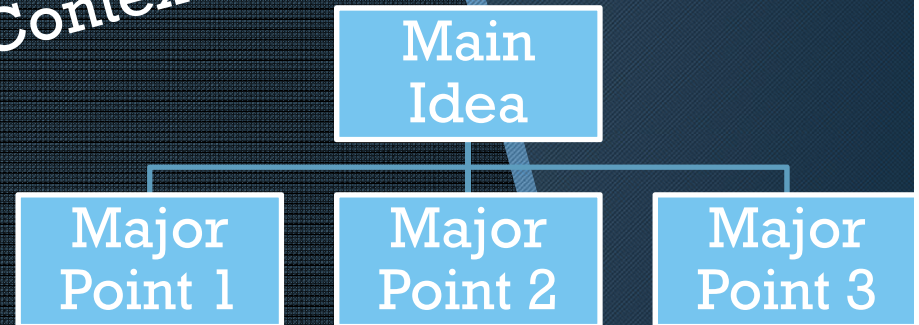
During: Read – Comprehension – annotation
Vocabulary – dictionary, glossary, SAGE

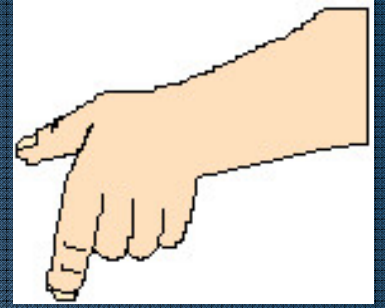
After: Recite – your own words
Review – one final look



3. Note Taking

The Blind men and the Elephant
Outlines & Graphic Organizers
Big picture – Little pieces
Illustration in Context





4. Study Skills

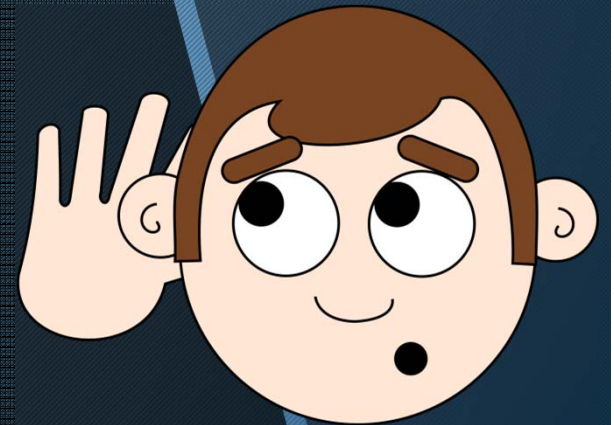
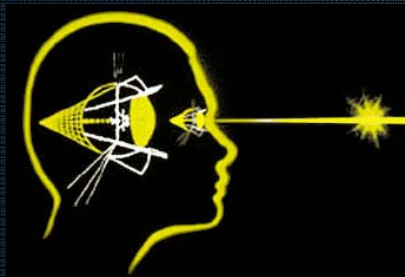
Pachyderm Practice

Learning Styles

Visual,

Auditory,

Tactile (Kinesthetic)





5. Test Taking Skills

An Elephant Never Forgets

The calm before the storm

Objective or Subjective

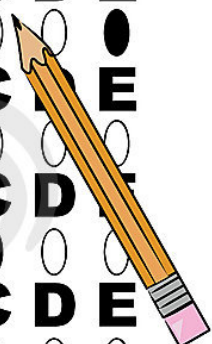
Mnemonic Devices

Educated Guessing

Critical Thinking



1.	A	B	C	D	E
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	A	B	C	D	E
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	A	B	C	D	E
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	A	B	C	D	E
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



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and I can’t get up!”

“Rise and walk!”

