A Compendium of Study Aids & Advice
by VICKI DENNIS
Grades are not necessarily synonymous with intelligence. Often the best students are the ones who have learned the tricks of the trade. Here are six study tips that could make the difference for you.

Use the Necessary Tools
Any tradesman needs special tools, and the college student is no different. The first tool is your time. Make a study schedule with fixed times for your classes, and add in the time you spend on study. You should learn for the final. In fact, the midterm lets you know what kinds of questions — and answers — the instructor prefers. Armed with this information, you can more easily isolate what you should learn for the final. In addition, a midterm lets you double-check your own study habits and note-taking skills. If you missed important points or found your notes impossible to comprehend, you can fine-tune your study technique or note-taking for the rest of the course. Finally, the midterm can tell you a lot about your test-taking skills. Did you run out of time? Were you calm or frantic? Were you able to organize your thoughts? Analyze your strong and weak points and work to improve your test performance before the final.

Get Acquainted with the Library
Don't wait till you have a big project to learn how to use the library. For starters, find out how the cards catalog works. It consists of small wooden drawers full of alphabetical listings of all the library's holdings — arranged by author, title and subject headings. In the upper left-hand corner of each card, you'll find the “call number,” which tells you the location of the book in the library. If you have learned the tricks of the trade, you should also become familiar with the reference room where encyclopedias and other general reference materials are located. Including The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, a multivolumed listing of magazine articles grouped by color-coded indexes on subjects such as California, or all its perfect for simple and concise look-up for four adults. More than 5,000 show you why, it's how you can find a car in history. The best way to find a car is by using a Check Out These Self-Help Study Guides
by VICKI DENNIS
Learn from Your Midterms
If you're alert, what you learn from a midterm can help you through the rest of the term and the final. For instance, the midterm lets you know what kinds of questions — and answers — the instructor prefers. Armed with this information, you can more easily isolate what you should learn for the final. In addition, a midterm lets you double-check your own study habits and note-taking skills. If you missed important points or found your notes impossible to comprehend, you can fine-tune your study technique or note-taking for the rest of the course. Finally, the midterm can tell you a lot about your test-taking skills. Did you run out of time? Were you calm or frantic? Were you able to organize your thoughts? Analyze your strong and weak points and work to improve your test performance before the final.

Check Out These Self-Help Study Guides