**The Study Guide Worksheet: Bridging Concepts and Application Through Practice**

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**Study Guide Worksheets:**

* **What:** 
  + A comprehensive set of questions designed to help the student review lecture and lab content on a weekly basis.
* **Why:**
  + To bridge lecture (concept) material with lab (applied) material in a technology-heavy course.
  + To link material from module to module; to get away from the compartmentalizing of topics that are not inherently mutually exclusive. Integration of topics.
  + To apply the lecture and lab material to everyday experiences (to encourage thinking outside the box)
  + To provide yet another opportunity (beyond lecture activities and applied labs) to practice quantitative analysis skills. Repetition, repetition, repetition – a proven method for building skills.
  + To write out (not type!) lecture notes in a different format – a proven method of studying concepts.
  + To slowly and meticulously build a study guide in preparation for the cumulative final exam.
  + To give the student frequent feedback for them to gauge their own learning progress.
  + To give the instructor frequent assessment material as a method of gauging the achievements made towards the learning outcomes.
* **How:**
  + SGWs are given each week and contribute only a small portion towards the final grade (between 5 and 8% each)
  + Answers are handwritten by an individual student or student pair (“buddy study”)
  + Students submit completed SGWs at the next lecture (typically one week later) for evaluation.
  + To alleviate some of the workload associated with weekly evaluation, students are told to complete all SGWs, but only submit 3 of their choice. Seeing each student’s strategy for choosing which SGWs to submit is actually quite revealing of their approach to learning.
  + One student-guided class is reserved at the end of the semester to address any questions arising from the worksheets. This formulates one method for review of the course (i.e., a Review Class).
* **Overheard:**
  + “These SGWs took me 8 hours to complete! They take forever!”
  + “At first I was like, why am I being asked stupid questions like ‘What is a map?’ and then I realized that by sometimes having to write out the obvious, I’m really getting a solid understanding of the definitions and concepts.”
  + “It’s a pretty sweet deal to get marks for studying!”
  + “I felt like I was doing a take-home test.”
  + “I’m not very good at math, so having the chance to practice those equations again outside of class time is really helpful.”
  + “I guess some of these questions are going to be on the final exam?”
  + “I submitted the first three to get work out of the way before my other courses get busy, but they were such a helpful way to learn that I’m going to try to complete all of them.”

**Self-Referential Sample:**

1. What is a study guide worksheet? [1]
2. List 3 learning benefits that come from a study guide worksheet. [2]
3. What are two disadvantages of this approach, from a teaching perspective? [2]
4. In which of your courses might a study guide worksheet help you to help your students? Why? [3]
5. In which of your courses would a study guide worksheet approach be useless? Why? [3]
6. Craft your own question on the topic of Study Guide Worksheets. [1]