Kinds of Mnemonics:

1. **Acronyms** – An acronym is a word or phrase made by using the first letter of key words in a list of items to remember.
   Example: HOMES = Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior (the five Great Lakes)

2. **Acrostics** – An acrostic is a sentence made by using the first letter of key words in a list of items to remember.
   An example:
   ○ Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally = parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction (represents the order of operations in math problems)

3. **Word Associations** – Word associations are jingles, rhymes, short songs, and raps that work as memory tools to recall information.
   Examples:
   ♦ Use i before e except after c or when sounded like a as in neighbor and weigh.
   ♦ Righty tighty, lefty looasy (to remember which way to turn a bolt or to tighten a jar)
   ♦ In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

4. **Picture Associations** – Picture associations are visual suggestions to help you to easily remember and recall information.
   Example:
   Term: Mao Tse-tung
   Definition: Leader of the Chinese Revolution
   Visual Association: Draw a person mowing the lawn, a person saying something, and a tongue.

5. **The Loci Method** – The loci method is a mnemonic technique that involves associating items or topics with specific rooms in a familiar building.
   Example: Assume you have to give a speech or write an essay for a history class about the end of the economic boom in the 1970s.
   Visualize walking through a building on campus, like the student union:
   At the front door, picture a poster that says, “350 percent increase in oil prices.”
   In the hallway, picture rows of oil barrels with large Xs on them for Arab oil embargo
   In the cafeteria, picture food prices: hamburgers $7.50, milk $3.00, for high retail prices.
   In the lounge, picture posters on the walls of closed auto factories for slump in auto industry
   In the hall as you leave, picture people lined up for job interviews for high

Sources:
What “A” Students Do to Avoid Testing Errors

Common Test Taking Errors:

1. Did not follow the directions for the test.
2. Didn’t calculate how much time to spend on each question to have time to do all of them.
3. Did not read questions carefully enough.
4. Did not go back and check over answers.
5. Accidentally marked the wrong item or box.
6. Did not understand a question and didn’t get clarification from the instructor.
7. Wrote lots of words but didn’t answer the question. Did not support points with evidence, facts, statistics, research, or proof.
8. Made careless errors.
9. Writing was illegible.
10. Simply did not know the course material.

- Attend class regularly and be prepared—it is as simple as...if you are not in class you cannot learn the course material and therefore cannot do well on the tests. Also come to class prepared by having completing required reading or assignments. If you get behind it is going to be hard to stay on top of the course material.

- Focus on understanding vs. memorizing—memorization techniques are helpful but you must learn concepts and the relationships among facts.

- Do NOT cram—Review consistently; do not wait until the last minute to study. You should be reviewing your reading and lecture notes throughout the week as part of your study plan.

- Be clear about what the test will ask you to know—be familiar with what chapters or topics will be covered and what kind of test questions will be used.

- Use effective strategies during the test—preview the test, read and follow directions thoroughly, answer questions that are easy or questions you know first, and plan your time/pace yourself.

- Take care of yourself—it is important during times of stress to eat balance meals, get plenty of sleep, and take time to exercise.

- Ask for help—do not be afraid to ask your instructor if you don’t understand something. Check out the academic services in the Learning Commons.

- Be confident—think positive and remember you can do it!

For more information Contact:
Lisa Crumit-Hancock
Director of Student Academic Support Services
419-783-2332
lcrumithancock@defiance.edu