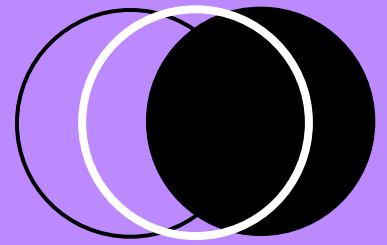# LEARNING STRATEGIES

A Learning Journey

We often talk about a learning journey, but what does that actually mean? And why is it important to know you are on a learning journey?

Your learning journey is one where there is a starting point (day 1) and an end point (graduation). Along the way there will be twists and turns, new things to see and do, hills to climb and slide down – heaps of adventures. Don't forget about the unplanned events that you overcome.

Sometimes you get lost but sometimes the road is very clear. Sometimes it's frightening, or exciting or even perhaps boring. Whatever the journey, it takes time and energy. You will need to be prepared and know who is coming along on your journey.

The Asynchronous and Synchronous learning journey

A face-to-face environment, be it in person or online, has advantages and disadvantages. In a face-to-face environment, students are working together at around about the same pace, on the same task. This environment probably allows a student to ask a question, or the tutor to see that there is an issue, and the question is addressed. This means the class stops and everyone focuses on the content. In a face-to-face environment all students and tutor start and finish when "the school bell" rings. Being marked present or absent is a motivator to be there.

In an asynchronous environment the classtime is flipped on its head and you, the student, take control. The content is there, the tutor is there, the students there, but like the million snakes in Indian Jones Temple of Doom, everyone is wriggling their own path. Having this much independence has its advantages and disadvantages. Can you think of some?

What are learning stratgies and why are they important?

Learning strategies are your tools to use when you are on your learning journey. They are specific to you and your context. There is the basis of the strategy that you consider and adapt to fit you and your learning. Strategies cover topics such as motivation, assistive technology, time management, and a range of skills such as reading, resilience, leadership etc.

Not everyone learns the same way. Learning strategies are methods and techniques that individuals use to enhance their learning effiiency and effectiveness. They are the tools you use to process information more deeply, manage your learning and to keep momentum going.

There are loads of learning strategies on different topics within Kāpehu – Pou/Support. Advice – don't review all of them now. Take it slowly to experiment and implement suitable ones for you. However, here are two strategies that are perfect starting points

KWL charts

Know-Wonder-Learnt charts are a great way to start to process your learning. Often used as a reading strategy, they can be adapted for watching a video, doing an assessment task, even listening to a workshop. It doesn't have to be a written chart, but it could be a conversation you have with yourself. It could be a mindmap of doodles.

It's about the Before and After focal points while studying something.

	K	W		L
When	Before focusing on content	Before focusing on content	During you focus, keep in mind what you KNOW and WONDER.	After focusing on content
Aim	to activate prior knowledge which makes your brain "open" and "sticky" to absorb new knowledge.	to set goal of learning and to create curiosity for learning (curiousity creates motivation).		to consolidate what you have focused on. to make the "stuff stick more" in your head.
Process	Make notes on things you know already about the topics. Look at the headings and the pictures – what can they add here? Note any **BOLD** words – what can they add here?	Look over your K columns notes and think about the gaps in your knowledge. Do these gaps fit with the headings/topics you will focus on? Turn the headings into questions? – do you know the answers?		Hiding the K and the W sections of your chart, bullet point things you learnt. Try to paraphrase rather than remember word for word. Don't worry if the things are small things. 1 brick builds on another.
A very simple example	*Water evaporates to form clouds.* *The sun heats up water.* *Rain falls from clouds.*	*How do clouds turn into rain?* *What role does the sun play in the cycle?* *Can water cycle happen without the sun?*		*Water vapor condenses to form clouds.* *The sun heats water, causing evaporation.* *Without the sun, evaporation would not occur.*

After your chart is completed, it's time to reflect on your **L** column with your **K** and **W** columns.

- How has the **K** column expanded or developed?
- Are there things that contridict the **K** column and you need to check?
- Has your **L** column answered any of your **W** column? Yes – yippee! No – do you need to know the answers to the **W** column? This means you can do some self-discovery. How will you do that?

Reflect & Connect

There is a well known whakatauki (saying) **Ka mua, ka muri,** which translates to the idea of "walking backwards into the future". In others words it's really important to look back at the past to support the future. Reflecting on **what** you learnt and **how** you learnt will help you see the connections to what you need to learn and how you can do it.

Reflect	• What did you learn that added top your knowledge? • What did you do to learn that? • How did it go? Was it useful or not so useful? Why was it useful? Why was it not useful? • If you did it again, the same way, would the same results happen? • What content did you not understand? Why?
Connect	• Where can you find the answers to your question? • What learning strategy did you use? • From that strategy – what are you going to keep doing? How can you improve the strategy?

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Focusing on my own learning strategy

Use the following box to set up a learning strategy.

Adopt a new strategy by setting a new habit

I am going to _____, for _____ weeks. Each time I need to

_____, I will do the following:

    1.

    2.

    3.

Reflect/Connect (✻ Adjust) approach

At the end of the study block I will reflect by _____. I will

know this is a good strategy because _____. If it is good I

will continue doing it. I will also plan in 20 minutes to reflect on other actions I have done. This way

I can develop a new strategy on an action I have seen myself do. If it is not a useful strategy I will

change it by _____.

Still need more support on learning strategies?

There are people who work in education and have supported many students learn, develop, achieve and complete their programme.

- ◉ Ask your tutor for advice on how to learn. Remember learning is more than the content knowledge and skills.
- ◉ Online Learning Support is there to do just that – support you and the tutors with online learning. Book a 1:1 meeting with them.
- ◉ Look in Kāpehu – Pou/Support for more learning strategies on specific areas.
- ◉ Ask AI or Google for more learning strategies that are specific to your context.

LEARNING STRATEGIES.