

## TIPS FOR STUDENTS FROM STUDENTS

# Preparing for Class

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In addition to preparing case summaries and doing the assigned readings for each class, here are some other helpful tips I have practiced preparing for law classes.

- **Brainstorm questions to ask the night before:** Whether it is a discussion-based course that requires participation, or the class involves discussing case law, one of the best ways to understand course materials and keep yourself accountable and on-track with the syllabus is to think of questions to ask during class.
- **Know how you absorb information and bring note-taking materials to help:** Not every student does well with typing out notes on a laptop. Do not be afraid to explore different note-taking strategies, such as sketching out pictures, mapping out diagrams, or creating flow charts. My personal favourite way of remembering complex cases is by using memes! With this being said, bring a pad of paper, some pens, and highlighters even if you enjoy taking notes on a computer just in case the professor starts drawing on the whiteboard or chalkboard.
- **Bring snacks:** A silly notion, but this is often a tip that students often forget. Not only will snacking give you energy to sit through long lectures, but the simple movement of your jaw moving can keep your brain working through difficult legal topics and improve memory retention (or so I have heard). Some quiet snacks to eat during class include gummies, yogurt, and (pre-unwrapped) granola bars.



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- **Arrive early:** I personally like to have a wide variety of seats to choose from, and nothing guarantees that except arriving about 10-15 minutes ahead of the start of class and get settled before other students and the professor comes in.
- **Be mentally prepared:** Whether this is taking a few deep breaths, using the washroom, or blasting your favourite song to hype yourself up, I always take a few minutes before entering the classroom to ensure my brain is at its optimal state for learning. Whether it is an early class or a late evening class, I found that having a pre-class ritual helps me dial in and be at my best self.

Overall, the general tip I leave you with is to understand yourself as best as you can. It can be easy to get swept along with the flow of law school, your fellow students, and your professors' recommendations, so do not forget what works best for you and use it to your highest advantage!

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