

4E: Exam Wrapper

Lori Ogden, PhD, Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, West Virginia University

[00:00:08] So I'd like to talk about the exam that we just took and we're going to do an activity. It's called an exam wrapper, where I actually want you to reflect on what you did to prepare for this exam and also look at your performance on the exam so you can better identify what study techniques worked for you, what didn't work for you, what you did do to prepare, maybe what you could have done better to prepare.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:00:28] So the exam wrapper is a wonderful activity that I think really gets at self-directed learning. It's a very reflective experience and I think that helps them see what works for them and what doesn't work for them, and then to identify what they could change in the future.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:00:43] So some of the mistakes that many of you made on some of these questions I've documented so we can take a look at those first.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:00:50] I like to first go through mistakes that were commonly made on the exam so they can see some of the common mistakes.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:00:56] So whatever you do to one side of the equation, you have to do to the other side of the equation. So $X + Y^2$ is not $X^2 + Y^2$, right, but $X + Y$ times itself. So that was another common mistake.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:01:12] I think that can be reassuring too, that, you know what, I'm not the only person that wasn't too sure how to do this.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:01:17] And remember that it's really important that, if you did make some mistakes, that you understand what you did wrong and that you know how to better prepare for the next test.

Terri Jett, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Butler University [00:01:27] So you all have just completed your exam. Good job. I know you all worked hard, but it's important to really understand your process. So this is called an exam wrapper. So there's three questions that we have here that I want you to really think about and answer honestly. So the first question, what did you do to prepare for the exam? Did you work in a group? Did you go over all the notes, all the readings, the texts? Did you manage your time? I always say it's important to get a good night's sleep. Did you get a good night's sleep? So, go ahead.

Terri Jett, PhD [00:01:58] The student understands that they're constantly having to think about their own process of learning, that it was either a good process or it could use some work.

Terri Jett, PhD [00:02:08] Where did you make errors? Or perhaps you were very successful. So you want to write that down too. Yeah, this is a good way that I prepared for this exam, and make a note of it. And this gives you a sense of your strengths and weaknesses.

Alannah, Student, Butler University [00:02:20] I immediately was thinking about the exam that I'd gotten back and was writing down the things that I had done to study for that and the things that I had gotten wrong. And then you can see the correlation between what you had studied and what you had missed.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:02:34] Go ahead and pass those up. And I'm going to hang onto them until about a week before our next exam, and then I'm going to give them back to you. And I'm going to give you an opportunity to look at this and the suggestions that really you're making to yourself, so that you can use these suggestions that you actually came up with to help you better prepare for the next test.

Joshua, Student, West Virginia University [00:02:54] You actually telling yourself that this is what was on this exam, this is what I failed at, this is what I need to do to succeed is a very helpful tool because you're telling yourself, you screwed up. This is what you need to do to do better. And I normally listen to myself, sometimes I shouldn't, but I normally do.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:03:13] I think a lot of these kinds of activities work because it's them directing themselves and not just me directing them. So again, all of these things are helping them learn how to learn.