

This document **provides information and suggests strategies** to help international students and English Language Learners be successful. **The following strategies will help language learning in practice:**

### **Listening (note-taking)**

- Listen for and write down the **main points or ideas** in the lecture. Don't try to write everything you hear.
- **Organize** your notes so you can understand them later. Find a way that works best for you.
- Try using your native language to **make quick notes or comments** in the margins; this can help you remember material you might otherwise forget.
- Find a **note-taking partner** in class, someone you can compare your notes with—this is a strategy students use to check that they have all the information they need.

### **Speaking (class discussion and presentations)**

- Prepare for class discussion by **making a list** of questions or comments about the reading material before class. This will give you something to talk about if the teacher calls on you.
- Remember that **it's okay to have an accent**—as a language learner, you have the right to use the language in your own way.
- If you must give a presentation in class, **practice it several times** beforehand. Try it once by yourself, perhaps in front of a mirror. Then, try it in front of a few friends.

### **Reading (processing class material)**

- Use **active reading** strategies—don't be afraid to write in your textbook: make notes in the margins, use a highlighter or colored pen to mark important passages, and write down a response after you read.
- **Scan** the material for key terms. Mark paragraphs with important names, dates, or concepts. This helps you find a specific piece of information later.

### **Writing (responses, essays, etc.)**

- Try **prewriting** strategies, like freewriting, brainstorming, making an outline, etc.
- If you aren't sure about an assignment, **talk to your professor** or **ask a DEWC writing consultant**.
- Don't try to write a "perfect" essay—first, **get your ideas down on paper**, and then focus on revising them.
- Go to the **DEWC writing center** and have a consultant look at your paper.
- Remember that **even native speakers struggle** to write a successful essay; it takes practice to find a process that works for you.