

What is the Difference Between an Active Learner and a Passive Learner?

<i>Active Learners...</i>	<i>Passive Learners...</i>
... read to understand & remember.	...read but may not understand or remember.
...make connections between what they already know and new information in texts, lectures, and from studying with peers.	...don't think about and process information that they read and hear.
...are engaged during lectures and take organized notes.	...do not pay attention during lecture and take unorganized or incomplete notes.
...put in quality study time.	...may put in a lot of study time but it isn't quality time.
...realize when they need help & seek it early.	...seek too little help too late.
... understand they are responsible for their own learning, analyze weak performance if it occurs, & change the way they study accordingly.	...blame others for poor performance, approach every course in the same way, & fail to learn from their mistakes.
...question new information that doesn't "fit in" with what they already know.	...accept what they read & hear in lectures as true & don't question.

In terms of academic payoffs, active learning leads to **higher grades, increased time to pursue extracurricular and social activities, and more importantly, gained knowledge.** Active learners earn **higher grade point averages, get to know their professors, and like to learn new things.** And, active learners are more apt to find learning new things more of a challenge rather than a chore.