Education & Learning / Study Guides

Convert raw notes or textbook chapters into structured study guides with key terms, summaries, and practice questions — knowledge organization for efficient review.
Difficulty: Intermediate
Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini
Use Case: Note Organization, Exam Prep
Updated: June 2026
Why This Prompt Exists
Raw notes are disorganized, incomplete, and hard to review. Students waste hours re-reading instead of actively studying. A structured study guide transforms passive notes into active learning tools.

You get:

- disorganized notes that are hard to review
- key terms buried in paragraphs (not memorized)
- no self-testing opportunities
- summaries that don’t capture main ideas
- inefficient review (re-reading instead of active recall)

But effective study guides have structure:

- key terms: definitions, examples, related concepts
- main ideas: topic sentences, core arguments, conclusions

- summary: condensed version of the material
- practice questions: self-testing with answers
- connections: how concepts relate to each other

Without formatting, notes are not study guides.
This prompt converts raw content into structured study guides.

The Prompt

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Assume the role of a study guide designer who organizes learning
materials.

Your task is to convert raw notes or textbook content into a
structured study guide.

Generate:

1. STUDY GUIDE HEADER
   - Subject: [topic name]
   - Source: [textbook chapter, lecture notes, article]
   - Key questions this guide answers: [2-4 questions]

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

| Term | Definition | Example | Related Terms |
|------|------------|---------|---------------|
| [term] | [definition in student's own words] | [concrete example] |
[related concepts] |

3. MAIN IDEAS (topic sentences + supporting details)
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Idea 1: [Main concept]
- Supporting detail: [evidence, explanation, example]
- Supporting detail: [evidence, explanation, example]

Idea 2: [Main concept]
- Supporting detail: [evidence, explanation, example]

4. CONCEPT CONNECTIONS

Concept A	Connects to Concept B	How They Relate
[concept]	[concept]	[relationship description]

5. SUMMARY (1-2 paragraphs)
   - [Condensed version of the material covering all main ideas]

6. PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Question	Answer	Difficulty
[recall/application question]	[correct answer]	Easy/Medium/Hard
[recall/application question]	[correct answer]	Easy/Medium/Hard
[analysis/evaluation question]	[suggested answer/approach]	Medium/Hard

7. STUDY TIPS FOR THIS CONTENT
   - [Specific strategy for memorizing, understanding, or applying

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this material]

INPUTS:

Raw content (notes, textbook chapter, article):
[PASTE THE CONTENT TO CONVERT]

Subject/topic:
[E.G., "Cellular Respiration", "The Great Depression", "Machine
Learning Basics"]

Desired depth:
[QUICK SUMMARY / DETAILED STUDY GUIDE / EXAM READY]

Target exam type (optional):
[MULTIPLE CHOICE / ESSAY / SHORT ANSWER / PRACTICAL]

RULES:
- Key terms should be defined in the student's own words (not copied
verbatim)
- Main ideas should be topic sentences with supporting evidence
- Practice questions should test different cognitive levels (recall,
application, analysis)
- Provide answers immediately (active recall works best with feedback)
- Include concrete examples for abstract concepts
- Show connections between concepts (not isolated facts)
- Summarize, don't copy (condense, don't reproduce)
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How To Use It

- Key terms should be defined in the student’s own words — not copied verbatim from the textbook.
- Main ideas should be topic sentences with supporting evidence — one paragraph per major concept.
- Practice questions should test different cognitive levels — recall, application, analysis, evaluation.
- Provide answers immediately — active recall works best with immediate feedback.
- Include concrete examples for abstract concepts — examples bridge theory and understanding.
- Show connections between concepts — don’t treat information as isolated facts.
- Summarize, don’t copy — condense the material into essential information only.

Example Input

Raw content: “Mitochondria are organelles found in eukaryotic cells. They are often called the powerhouse of the cell because they generate ATP through cellular respiration. Cellular respiration has three main stages: glycolysis, the Krebs cycle, and oxidative phosphorylation. Glycolysis occurs in the cytoplasm. The Krebs cycle happens in the mitochondrial matrix. Oxidative phosphorylation occurs on the inner mitochondrial membrane and produces the most ATP.”

Subject/topic: “Mitochondria and Cellular Respiration”

Desired depth: “DETAILED STUDY GUIDE”

Target exam type: “MULTIPLE CHOICE AND SHORT ANSWER”

Why It Works

Most students re-read disorganized notes — passive review that doesn’t build memory. Structured study guides enable active recall.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing: key term extraction, main idea identification, connection mapping, practice question generation, and active recall testing.

Failure modes this prevents: Disorganized notes that are hard to review, key terms buried in paragraphs, no self-testing, passive re-reading.

This improves on: Raw notes. Structured study guides enable efficient, active review.
Related to: SG-01 (Topic Deconstructor) for prerequisites; SG-04 (Misconception Detector) for error prevention.

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