Handout 2-A: Technique Autopsy

Session 1 · about 15 minutes

An autopsy looks at what already happened. List the study techniques you actually used in your last real study session (not the ones you wish you'd used), then decide whether each was passive or active and how the research rates it. This is a working document, not a test.

Technique I used	Passive or active?	Dunlosky rating	One way to make it more active
…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…

Add rows if you used more techniques. A **passive** technique takes information in (reading, listening, copying). An **active** technique makes you produce something (recall, explain, solve, quiz yourself).

Dunlosky rating key

From the review you read in Session 1:

- **High:** practice testing, distributed practice
- **Moderate:** elaborative interrogation, self-explanation, interleaved practice
- **Low:** summarization, highlighting, keyword mnemonic, imagery for text, re-reading
- **Not rated:** a technique the review didn't rate. Write "Not rated," and judge it by whether it's passive or active.

Options

Fill it in as a table, talk it through as a voice memo, or sketch it as two columns (passive on the left, active on the right).

Worked example

Technique I used	Passive or active?	Dunlosky rating	One way to make it more active
Re-reading the chapter	Passive	Low	After each section, close the book and write what I remember
Highlighting key sentences	Passive	Low	Replace highlights with a margin question for each section, then answer it from memory