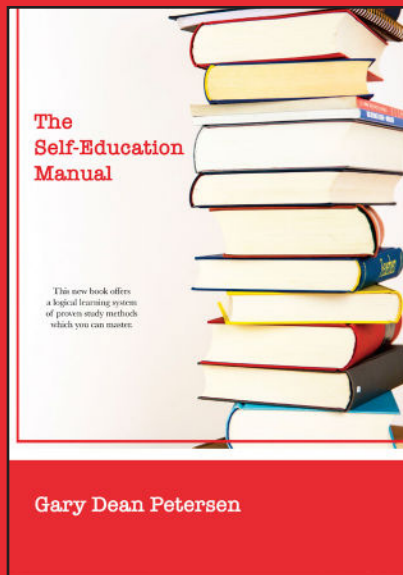


THE SELF-EDUCATION MANUAL

By Gary Dean Petersen



The Self-Education Manual offers:

Sixteen Proven Study Methods

A Learning Tool Kit

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Reviewed by Diana Lopez for Readers' Favorite Reviews

Being self-taught allows us to learn at our own pace and have control over the information we get. However, it is necessary to have a strategy and the right tools. Gary Dean Petersen helps us find our learning style in *The Self-Education Manual*. He begins by explaining the three phases of the study: preparation, memorization, and application. He then shares several techniques for each point and teaches us how to combine them to create our action plan. He also poses practical scenarios for each method and gives us additional suggestions. The author shares tips for learning math, geography, languages, and more. In the process, he teaches us how to gather and synthesize information and encourages us to try new ways of studying. At the same time, he reminds us not to be afraid to fail, as that is also part of learning.

I loved *The Self-Education Manual* for its versatility. It is a useful guide for students and teachers because it covers a wide range of techniques and topics. Visually, the content is appealing due to the charts, diagrams, and colorful photographs. Gary Dean Petersen speaks from his experience and presents the information in a logical and detailed manner. He uses simple and easy-to-understand language suitable for all readers. His writing style reflects his love for knowledge and encourages curiosity because he also shares interesting facts on a variety of topics. Learning something new takes time and effort, but with these tips, the process can become more fun. My favorite examples were the mnemonics for their touch of humor, but this guide covers options for all types of minds. *The Self-Education Manual* is ideal for motivating us to reach our limitless potential.

Interview by the Literary Titan with Author Gary Dean Petersen

The Self-Education Manual is a guide for readers looking to take control of their learning journey utilizing a clear structure, engaging real-world examples, and focus on building confidence and personalized learning. What was the inspiration for writing this book?

As a geologist, I thought of an invention to help find oil. To pursue the invention, I needed to learn more science and math. So, I enrolled at a regional university 100 miles away to take classes toward an advanced degree in physics. Two weeks into my classes a torn retina in one eye got me a doctor's excuse to not travel to attend classes for a month. Nearing the end of the month, I had another tear in a different place on the retina of the same eye. This resulted in another doctor's note to not attend classes for another month. Therefore, I began investigating how to teach myself. Now, I want to share with others what I learned about how people can teach themselves.

How did you develop your step-by-step approach to learning and mastering skill sets?

The three tools of my book, the Study Methods Chart, the Decision Tree, and the Flowchart came to my mind as inspirations while I pondered how to organize the learning process in a practical manner.

Did you find anything in your research of this story that surprised you?

One thing I found surprising was that one study method is not sufficient. It usually takes about a half dozen or more study methods to learn one object. Another surprise was that, in the Mental Imagery study method, research showed that memorizing an actual, physical picture proved to cause mistakes and detract from success. The picture must be a purely "mental" image for the technique to show measurable effectiveness.

What is one thing that you hope readers take away from The Self-Education Manual?

You can break free from dependence upon instructors or from having to fight your own attitude limitations. Learning, similar to swimming, is an acquired skill.