Thoughts From UWO History Department:

Most students are around eighteen years old; wide range of maturity

* University approach has changed, young, not mature students
* More support being offered
* Thinking and applications skills major area needed and needs improvement
* Memorization needs to be downplayed and reduced

More emphasis on skills, not so much on content

* + How rather than what
  + Article reading
  + Argument identification
  + Note taking

Organization most important followed closely by self-regulation (maturity)

Note taking skills

Over-reliance on copying PowerPoint (not much different than copying overheads), should be used as skeleton guide or lecture support

Helping them to figure what is important – 20-25 page chapter should be 1 page of notes MAX

Preparing the students for quantity of reading – 250-350 pages a week over all 5 courses

Writing a précis – Editing and making it tight and efficient

Be critical about the source and learning to work with scholarly journals

Wikipedia is okay as a jumping off point – we all use it. Just should not be the end point

Work on reading and analysis

Even compare and contrast can really be a memorization question- need to be able to analyze

History provides the ability to synthesize material and information

Encourage students to go to office hours and meet and talk with the Professors

Foster Curiosity in the students

* + What question are you asking?
  + What do you want to know?
  + What kind of evidence will help?
  + What have other Historians said?
  + Who cares – why does the question matter?