



DIVISION OF
Arts and Sciences

Arts and Sciences Division
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Dear Arts & Sciences Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Hello, I am Jason Stone, the Division Head of Arts & Sciences at OSU-OKC. Let's continue our conversation about your future. I am delighted that you chose to invest in yourself and attend to the next video in our series about the Habits of the Mind. The Habit that we are stressing in this video is applying past knowledge to new situations.

General George Patton is a true American war hero. Despite his personal flaws, Patton secured his place in history by applying past knowledge to new situations. Patton was an athlete. He represented the U.S. in the 1912 Olympiad in Stockholm, Sweden in the first modern pentathlon. At the time, the event included five events with a strong military background: pistol shooting, fencing, horse riding, swimming, and running. Upon completion of the Olympics, he pursued fencing, sword fighting, with renewed vigor. He was assigned to study sword fighting at the French Cavalry School with a French Master of the Sword at their cavalry academy.

Patton took what he learned about swords in that past situation and applied it to his present situation. The army asked him to teach sword fighting to a whole generation of new officers. While Patton was in France, he became familiar with French language and culture. Patton took what he had learned about French sword fighting tactics and designed a new sword that was standard issue to all U.S. Army cavalry officers for many years after he commissioned it in 1913. Patton learned that French sword fighting tactics involved straight ahead attacks using the point of the weapon rather than the edge, a strategy Patton would later adapt to his own tank fighting doctrine.

Patton returned to France during World War I. Soon after America's entrance into that war, America began to understand how important tanks would be to the new mechanized and trench intensive conflict. Because of Patton's familiarity with cavalry tactics and his familiarity with French, Patton was reassigned to learn all he could about French tanks. Patton trained briefly at the French tank school. The war ended shortly after Patton completed his training. He was only afforded a handful of opportunities to apply what he learned at French tank school during World War I. In November of 1918, an armistice ended the war. Patton spent the next 20 years raising awareness about the centrality of tanks to a new conflict doctrine. Slowly, and steadily, Patton used his past experiences to make the case for a massive U.S. investment in tank Research & Development, which proved useful during World War II.

As World War II began in Europe, Patton, now a Lieutenant General, organized a tank training operation to prepare the units for mobilization and to continue to raise awareness. Patton organized a drill that moved tanks from Tennessee to Georgia. The maneuvers helped to put the U.S. on a wartime footing and earned General Patton a place on the cover of Life Magazine's. Patton continued to make the case for a more robust integration of tanks into U.S. war-time doctrine.



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General Patton consistently demonstrated the habit of applying past experiences to current situations across both professional and personal situations. Patton was a great American hero because he possessed the ability to learn from the past and to leverage those lessons into actionable knowledge that helped him lead. This Habit of the Mind is also a habit of great Americans, the ability to learn from the past.

Please join me and attend to the other videos in this series. Invest in yourself and your future. Attend to your thinking habits. Your mental habits will determine how far you go. Thank you for your time and attention.

Have a great day and "Go Pokes!"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Stone".

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