

Cornell Note Taking

Taking effective notes is an essential part of the academic experience.

Effective notes:

- help students organize and process data and information
- help students remember what is said in class
- can help students complete assignments and prepare for assessments when outside of class

Cornell note taking stimulates critical thinking skills and helps students recall by getting them to process their notes 3 times ... writing is a great tool for learning.

Cornell notes were developed in 1949 at Cornell University and were designed in response to frustration over student test scores ... meant to be easily used a test study guide.

Cornell note taking has been adopted by most major law schools as the preferred note taking method.

How to Take Cornell Notes

1. Read your text.
2. In the large right hand column of your cornell note paper, take notes like you normally would using any style of note-taking you wish ... outline format, narrative format, symbols, short hand, etc..
3. In the left hand column, create questions about your notes. These questions should elicit critical thinking skills and should reflect: 1) main ideas; 2) topics/information you don't understand or want to discuss with your teacher; 3) information you think would go good on an essay; 4) gaps in your notes (see example #1).
4. In addition to questions, key terms, key people and/or events, academic or content vocabulary can also be included in the left hand column (see example #2).
5. When finished with each page, write a 2-3 sentence summary of your notes at the bottom of the page.

EXAMPLE #1

Class Notes/Textbook Notes

Name: _____
Class: _____
Date: _____
Period: _____

Topic: Propaganda Techniques in Advertising

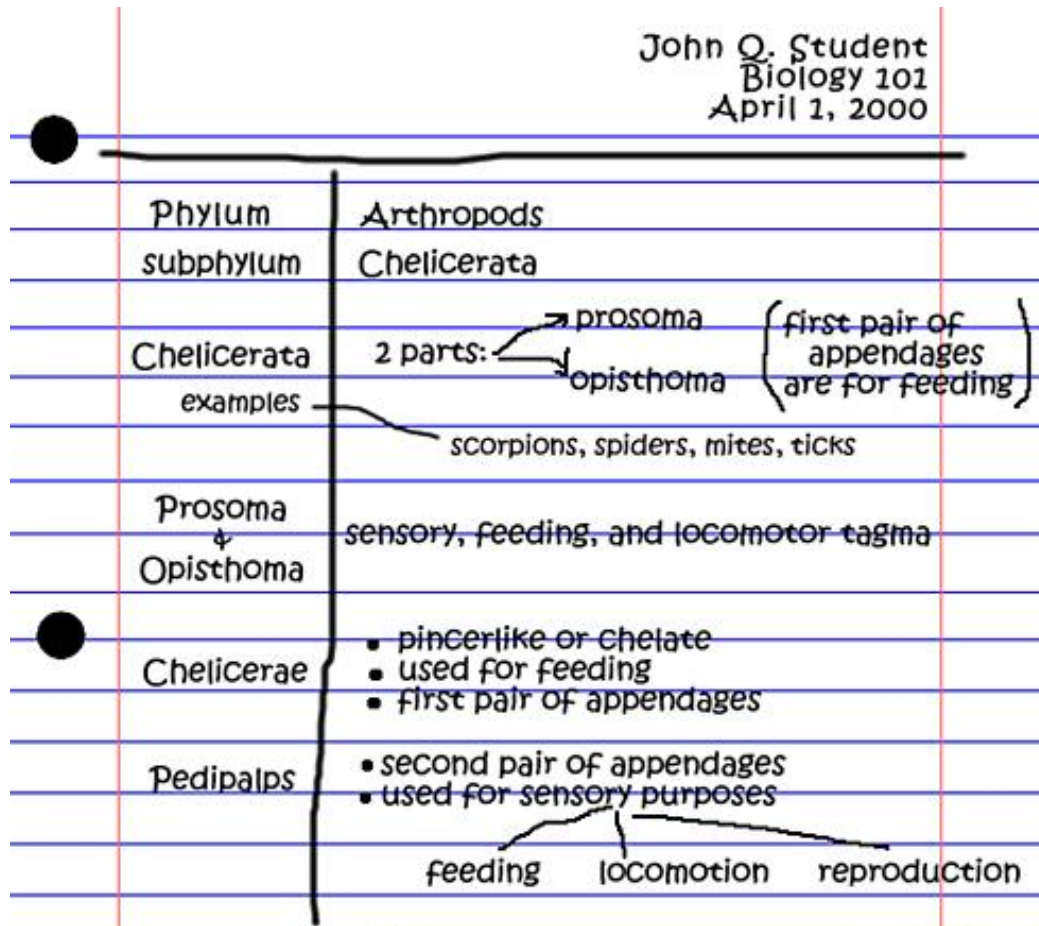
Questions/Main Ideas:	Notes:
1. What is the definition of propaganda?	Propaganda: Messages intended to persuade audiences to adopt a certain opinion.
2. What are 4 common techniques used by advertisers?	Advertisers use propaganda using 4 techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Testimonial• Bandwagon• Plain Folks• Transfer
3. What is an example of the testimonial technique?	Testimonial Example: Michael Jordan sells Nike shoes.

Summary, Reflection, Analysis

Advertisers use propaganda to sell products. There are 4 common propaganda techniques used by advertisers.

EXAMPLE #2

John Q. Student
Biology 101
April 1, 2000



Phylum arthropods is made up of subphylum chelicerata. Subphylum chelicerata is characterized by two parts called prosoma and opisthoma. The prosoma and cephalothorax are sensory, feeding, and locomotor tagma. The chelicerae is the first appendage and refers to the pincerlike

The pedipalps are the 2nd pair of appendages, and they are used for sensory purposes: feeding, locomotion, and reproduction.

Tips for Taking Textbook Notes

Think about the Reading:

- consider how the parts relate to the whole; how the text relates to previous ideas
- create questions about new words/terms and/or why emphasized points are important
- examine what you have learned from visuals in the text
- look for the patterns in elements like chapter/subsection headings, summary points, graphics

Textbook Note Taking:

- include headings, key terms and graphics
- take down only the important ideas ... be brief, but clear
- summarize all information in your own words
- use symbols to highlight important for review
- use textbook review questions to develop study questions

Reviewing Textbook Notes:

- highlight main ideas
- fill in details for better understanding
- identify unclear information and/or questions
- delete unnecessary information
- review note organization; add symbols or rewrite
- write a summary

Studying with Textbook Notes:

- cover the right side of your notes and review and answer study questions from the left using the right side as an answer key
- quiz yourself out loud
- cover the right side with blank paper ... write out answers to the left column study questions
- write summaries of the most important material in the summary/reflection section
- write a quiz for others using notes; exchange and correct
- write anticipated test questions beyond those already in the left-hand column and write answers
- look over notes frequently to keep information and questions still unanswered fresh in mind
- recite information from notes
- use notes in study groups to provide a common ground of material for reference and review
- rewrite notes if necessary

