

APSU Writing Center

Cornell Notes

Resource: Cornell University Learning Strategies Center

• Cornell Notes are a type of note taking technique in which students can review their notes and study more efficiently. This system for taking and revising notes was derived from Professor Walter Pauk of Cornell University in the 1950s.

The 5-step process

Record

• During the lecture use the note taking column to record the lecture using concise sentences that typically include five words or less (telegraphic sentences).

Questions

• Write questions after the class in the right-hand column over the information you just recorded. This can help clarify meaning, reveal relationships, strengthen memory, and establish continuity. It will also help when studying for exams or quizzes later.

• Recite

Cover the note taking section and focus only on the questions that you formulated. If you
cannot answer those questions, it is important to reread your notes and try again. Say aloud
the answers to the questions, facts, or ideas.

Reflect

• Reflect on the material by asking yourself questions, for example: "What is the significance of these facts? What principle are they based on? How can I apply them? How do they fit in with what I already know? What is beyond them?

Review

• Spend at least ten minutes every week reviewing all your previous notes. If you do, you will retain a great deal for current use, as well as for the exam.

Summary

• After class, use this space at the bottom of each page to summarize the notes on that page.

Notes

Topic/Objective:		Name:
		Date:
		Course:
Essential Question:		
Questions & Cues	Notes	
Summary		