

APSU Writing Center

Question/Evidence/Conclusion Note-Taking Method

Q/E/C (Question/Evidence/Conclusion) Note-Taking Method

- Focuses on capturing the big ideas and how they relate to each other.
- Helpful for these courses: history, philosophy, and literature.
- Can be beneficial for outlining argumentative essays as it helps identify counterarguments and additional questions.
- Helps you keep track of the relationship between the overall topic and the arguments/evidence

How to use:

1. Divide the page into two or three sections.
2. Begin each section with a question.
3. Write concise notes below the question. (Include key quotations, facts, data, etc.)
4. Conclude with a summarized statement as a response to the question or conclude with a thesis statement.

Q/E/C Note-Taking Examples:

The QEC Method

Question: _____

Evidence:

- X _____
- Y _____
- Z _____

Conclusion:

The Q.E.C Method
(Question/Evidence/Conclusion)

1. Note down the question your notes address. → **Question:** How does the QEC Method work?
2. Use dot points to summarise the evidence that responds to the question. → **Evidence:**
 - Use dot points
 - Answer the question
 - Use concise sentences
 - Include quotations and examples where appropriate
3. Answer the question and summarise the dot points. → **Conclusion:** Answer the question in a couple of sentences. Aim to summarise the key points. Summarise the ideas that answer the question - using dot-points, answering the question, being concise, including quotations and examples- for later reference and review

References:

Matrix Education. (n.d.). *The Ultimate Guide to Writing Perfect Studying Notes*. Retrieved from <https://www.matrix.edu.au/the-ultimate-guide-to-writing-perfect-study-notes-the-best-way-to-revise>

Staake, J. (2022, December 30). *7 Helpful Note-Taking Strategies Your Students Should Know*. <https://www.weareteachers.com/note-taking-strategies/>

Tamm, S. (2023, January 20). *The 9 Most Effective Note-Taking Methods*. E-student.org. <https://e-student.org/note-taking-methods/>

