

Note Taking: Cornell Method



Introduction to method:

The Cornell note-taking method is a format that can be used during any type of lecture. During the lecture, record as many meaningful facts and ideas as you can.

Method:

The Cornell method turns your note-taking into a study guide. Use the boundaries in your notebook as the form of your Cornell notes. The left side of the margin will be the area where you write the key ideas and/or key questions. If you need more space in the left margin, draw a line past the predetermined margin in your notebook. On the right side, you will create the important information. Under these two boxes will be your summary. After class, you can look at your notes and write a summary of your notes in this box. This could look similar to the outline method.

Advantages:

The Cornell method helps to keep notes organized and it creates efficient study sheets. You can cover one side of the table and review the side that is not covered for better understanding. This method is an easy format to use in lectures that do not move too quickly.

Challenges:

The Cornell method may not be the best note-taking method when a lecture moves quickly. In subjects with little to no structure, such as Mathematics, general labs, and other hands-on classes, this method may not be beneficial.

When to use:

The Cornell note-taking method can be used during a structured lecture or notes taken from a textbook. This system can be helpful for any course you may take. This method can help when creating study tools; especially the summary portion.

Success:

Being committed is the key to success. Success does not lie within a method, but in your engagement. Your success with note-taking depends on being engaged and actively listening.

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CUES:

- *Key words
- *Key questions

NOTES:

- *Key ideas
- *Important dates, people, places
- *Diagrams and pictures
- *Formulas
- *Repeated information

SUMMARY:

- *Summary of your notes in your own words