Cornell Note Taking

peer connections
We Teach Skills. We Tutor Content. We Transform Lives.

The Cornell method is a system of note taking developed by Dr. Walter Pauk at Cornell University. The Cornell system assists you in organizing your notes into an effective study guide. It encourages you to think critically about class material, which promotes an active learning style and better retention. There are five stages in the Cornell note taking method.

1. Record. Draw a vertical line 2 or 3 inches from the left edge of your paper. Leave the left column, the recall column, blank until the second stage. Use the right column to record information from lecture. You may take notes using an outline or paragraphs. Include illustrations, visuals, and diagrams as well as questions and answers your professor provides during lecture.

2. Reduce. As soon as possible after class, review and condense your notes. Your understanding and recall increase when you reduce your notes. You can remember approximately 80% more material by reviewing it within 24-48 hours of the lecture.

Using as few words as possible, write key words and phrases in the recall column to summarize the main concepts from lecture. Include questions you may have about unclear ideas, connect ideas together, and develop test questions that your professor could potentially use on an exam. At the bottom of your notes, summarize the entire lecture in your own words in order to review again. By preparing a summary, you are able to identify which information is clear to you and with which information you need more time or assistance.

3. Recite. Cover the right-hand column of your notes and do your best to say what you wrote; say it aloud and in your own words. Use the key words in the left-hand column to trigger your memory. If recalling any of the information is difficult for you, review your lecture notes again.

4. Reflect. Once you have reviewed and recited your notes, take a break from them. Then, reread the notes and think about them, drawing connections between your text and the lecture. Look for cause and effect relationships, and relate concepts and ideas together. Draw conclusions based on your notes. Finally, create a shorter summary of the entire lecture; this assists you to become a more active, critical thinker.

5. Review. Look over your notes and review briefly several times a week to increase retention. When you use "distributed review," the repetition keeps the information fresh and decreases your chances of forgetting.

recall column	**column for lecture notes**
Climate Classification	*I. System of climate classification*
Koppen	*A. Invented by Vladimis Koppen: botanist who saw biological activities*
	as a function of climate characteristics
What did he do? Why important?	*B. created a climograph*
Define climograph	*a. displays mo'ly temp. and precip. on 1 graph*
	C. Main concern: make it simple
How do you calculate problem on	*a. rel'ship betw. potential evap and amnt moisture rec'd at any location*
a climograph?	
Summary: Koppen was a botanist who invented a system of climate classification. He believed that characteristics of climate determined biological activities (such as??). To classify climates, he developed the climograph, which displays variables of monthly temperature and precipitation. We are looking at the relationship between potential evaporation and amount of moisture received at a particular geographic location.	

Adapted from:
Utah State University Academic Resource Center. Note Taking: Cornell Method.