

Note-Taking Strategies: Cornell Notes

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will practice the Cornell note-taking method on a real reading passage.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 sheet of paper
- ruler
- pen or pencil
- a short reading passage (a book chapter, article, or textbook section, about 1-2 pages)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Using a ruler, divide your paper into the Cornell format: a narrow left column (about 2 inches), a wide right column, and a bottom summary section (about 2 inches tall) spanning the full width.
2. Read your chosen passage and take notes in the wide right column as you go, writing down key facts, ideas, and details in your own words (not copying word-for-word).
3. After finishing, go back and write 3-5 short questions or key terms in the narrow left column that correspond to the notes across from them.
4. In the bottom summary section, write a 2-3 sentence summary of the entire passage in your own words without looking back at your notes.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the 3 sections of the Cornell note-taking format, and what goes in each?

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2. Write one of the key questions or terms you added to your left column.

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3. Write your 2-3 sentence summary from the bottom section.

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4. How could you use the left column later when studying for a test, without re-reading the whole passage?
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