



Oak Meadow
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN JOYFUL LEARNING

How to Take Good Notes

K-W-L Chart (Know - Want to Know - Learned)

A great tool for guiding you through a text, KWL Charts demonstrate your prior knowledge of the topic, set a purpose for your reading, and help you monitor your comprehension by brainstorming everything you already **Know** about the subject; generating a list of questions of what you **Want to Know**; and answering those questions about what you have **Learned**. Find a blank chart example [here](#).

Statement-Turned-Question

Check your own reading comprehension by turning a topic or title, i.e. “The XYZ Affair” into a question, i.e. “What were the effects of the XYZ Affair?” then answer it fully in your own words.

Cornell Method

One of the most popular note-taking strategies out there is the Cornell Method, a structure for organizing different kinds of information on one subject clearly and efficiently. Find an example and guidelines [here](#).

Two-Column Method

This note-taking method, pioneered by Landmark College, stimulates active reading and can help you parcel out main ideas in one column with specific details in the other. Read about it [here](#) and give it a try!

Graphic Organizers

Education Place has a treasure trove of printable graphic organizers for all subjects and approaches. Find one that works for you [here](#)!

Annotation Technique

When reading for a class, write margin notes that help you organize different strands of thought. Use question marks for passages that confused you, exclamation points for important plot points, underlined text for passages you enjoyed, and highlighted text for passages relevant to your writing assignments. Write thoughts in your own words in the margins to jump start ideas for your essays.

Talk to Your Mirror

Whether you are practicing the same text over and over with the goal of memorization, or in need of a strategy for explaining concepts in your own words, find a bit of private space and talk it out with your reflection.