

The Cornell System of Note-Taking

The Cornell Method is a 5-step method of taking notes in a condensed, organized, easy-to-study format. A sheet of paper is divided into 2 columns. The right side is about 2/3 of the page width, and the left side is about 1/3. These two columns take up about the top ¾ of the page. Optionally, you can leave lines 5-7 (about 2") at the bottom of the page for a summary.

<p>2. Cues Here you write down questions that cue you to answer with the major points from your notes.</p>	<p>1. Record During the lecture/class, you will be RECORDING using this right-hand column to take notes. Be brief, and use telegraphic sentences. These sentences are short and to the point. Write down the major points and paraphrase longer thoughts. Use symbols and abbreviations as needed.</p>
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3. Summarize

After writing cues, questions, and keywords, students will use this space to summarize the information from the notes in their own words.

When you're in class, fill in the right-hand column with your notes. After class you review your notes and create quiz questions for yourself in the left hand column.

The reason this system is so effective is that you can turn your study sessions into quiz sessions that force you to jog your memory. You cover the right-hand column and REFLECT and REVIEW using the questions on the left as cues. When you review, it is important to understand that repetition is key. You need to spend time each day going over your notes in this way.

An Example of the Cornell System:

CLASS NOTES	NAME:
TOPIC:	CLASS: AMERICAN LITERATURE
DESIREE'S BABY	DATE: 10/25/13
BY: KATE CHOPIN	
QUESTION/MAIN IDEAS:	NOTES:
WHERE DOES THIS STORY TAKE PLACE?	L'ABRI IS WHERE THE STORY TOOK PLACE.
WHAT ARE THE FOUR TYPES OF LITERARY ELEMENTS PRESENTED WITHIN THIS STORY?	(1) ALLITERATION: "AND THE VERY SPIRIT OF SATAN SEEMED) SUDDENLY..." (P. (2) SIMILE: "ALL THE AUBIGNYS FELL IN LOVE AS IF STRUCK BY A PISTOL SHOT" (P. (3) FORESHADOWING: "BUT ARMAND'S DARK HANDSOME FACE HAD NOT BEEN DISFIGURED BY FROWNS..." (4) IRONY: ARMAND HATES HIMSELF ^{FOR HETS} HALF BLACK.
WHAT DID ARMAND THINK DESIREE HAD DONE AFTER HE SAW THE PIGMENT OF THE BABY AND CAUGHT WIND OF TOWN GOSSIP?	ARMAND THOUGHT DESIREE HAD LIED ABOUT BEING WHITE DUE TO THE BABY'S DARKER PIGMENTATION.
SUMMARY:	IN KATE CHOPIN'S DESIREE'S BABY A MAIDEN FALLS FOR A YOUNG MAN OF PRESTIGE AND IN TIME, THE FEELING ABRUPTLY TURNS MUTUAL. FROM THERE THEY ARE MARRIED AND CONCEIVE. UPON BIRTH THEIR SONS SKIN COLOR IS DARKER AND CONTINUES TO TURN THAT WAY. AS A RESULT ARMAND ACCUSES HIS WIFE OF BEING PARTIALLY BLACK AND HAVING LIED TO HIM. IRONICALLY, HE IS THE PARTIALLY BLACK ONE.

When possible, try to ask a question that makes you recall more than one fact.

