

Tips for Taking Better Classroom Notes

Be Ready

review your assigned reading and previous notes you've taken before class. Bring plenty lots of paper and a sharpened pencil, an erasable pen or a pen that won't skip or smudge. write the class name, date and that day's topic at the top the page.

Write Legibly

Print if your cursive handwriting is poor. use a pencil or pen if you cross out material a lot so that your notes are easier to read. Take notes in one-liners rather than paragraph form. Skip a line between ideas to make it easier to find information when you're studying for a test.

Margins

Leave an wide margin on one side of your paper so you'll have space to to write your own thoughts and call attention to key material. Draw arrows or stars beside important information like dates, names and events. If you miss getting a date, name, number or other fact, make a mark in the margin so you'll remember to come back to it.

Mark Questionable Material

Jot down a "?" in the margin beside something you disagree with or do not think you recorded correctly. When appropriate, ask your teacher, classmate, or refer to your textbook, for clarification.