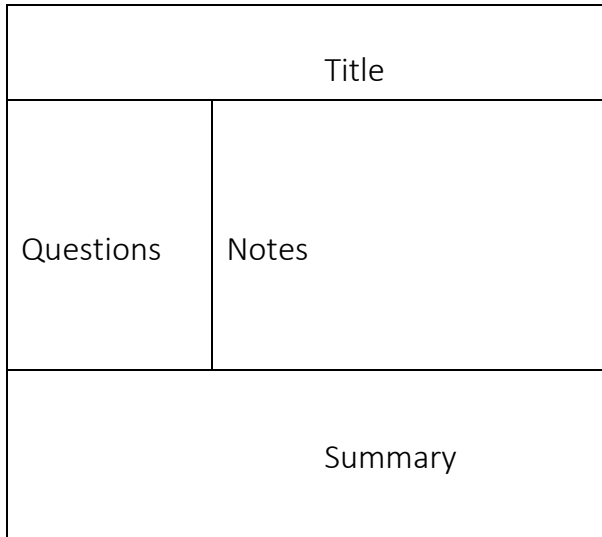## Why Teach Notetaking

- Notetaking is an **underestimated skill**, and many college instructors assume their students are already effective notetakers, but as writers advance in college, their previous skills may need to level up.
- Good notetaking **boosts recall**, and students perform best when they take notes and refer back to them. They may still remember material when they don't take notes at all, but having a plan in place will provide them a structure for familiarizing themselves with the content.
- Depending on your teaching style, the discipline, the type of class (lecture, seminar, lab, etc.), and the nature of the content, some notetaking methods may work better than others. Experiment between teaching one or two strategies and **catering your instruction** to those methods, or offer multiple options to your students and allow them to see what works best.
- **Keep reading** to see examples of strategies for notetaking.

Notetaking Strategies to Consider

- **Cornell Notes**: This method offers students a specific structure of taking notes that breaks the page down into questions, primary content, and a summary section.
- **Outlining**: The most traditional of the strategies, outlining is a standard approach of categorizing content into headings.
- **Mind Mapping**: Useful for lessons that follow complex systems of ideas, mapping may be useful for seeing the abstract connections between a train of thought.
- **Charting**: This strategy of charting works best as a handout provided to students ahead of time if you want them to look for specific aspects of the material.
- **Collaborative**: Consider having students take turns posting notes to a shared space during class, like a Google Doc. According to Harbin (2020), "implementing this pedagogical approach can help foster a more collaborative, inclusive, and equitable learning environment in university classrooms."

For more information or to discuss how you can support students, contact the Writing in the Disciplines Program at wid@uvm.edu.
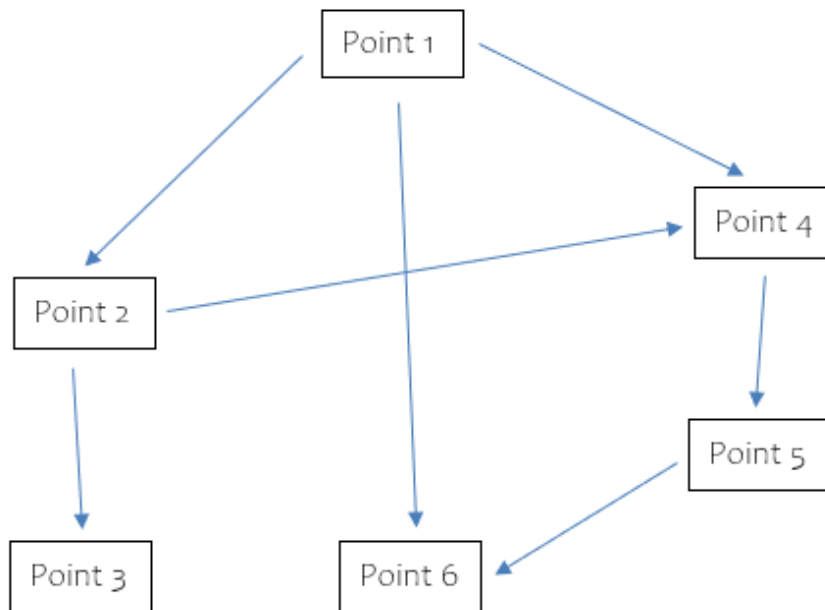
Cornell Notes

Title	
Questions	Notes
Summary	

Outlining

Title
- Main Idea 1
    - Heading
    - Heading
        - Subheading
        - Subheading
- Main Idea 2
    - Heading
        - Subheading
    - Heading

Mind Mapping

Charting

Topics	Condition 1	Condition 2	Condition 3
Topic 1			
Topic 2			
Topic 3			

UVM Resources for Students Taking Notes

- Tutoring Center
  - In the consultation services they offer, note taking is one of the areas a Study Skills tutor works with students on.
- Note Taking Program
  - See if your students are eligible for a certified Center for Academic Success note taker.

Sources Consulted

- Cornell University, The Learning Strategies Center. "The Cornell Note Taking System."
- Harbin, M. Brielle. (2020). "Collaborative Note-Taking: A Tool for Creating a More Inclusive College Classroom." *College Teaching*, *68*(4), 214-220.
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Learning Center. "Effective Note-Taking in Class."
- Stanford University, Student Learning Programs. "Notes: Take Them, *Use* Them."