How to make your notes work for you

Come to class prepared.	Read the assigned material (and take notes) prior to class starting. You will understand the lecture and be able to participate more meaningfully in class discussions and activities.
Keep your notes organized.	 Use a separate notebook, binder, or section in your binder for each class. Handwritten is best. Use a new page for each class period. Date each lecture. Add a heading to your notes that describes the topic.
Leave room in your notes for going back and adding to them after class.	The Cornell Method Key Terms or Self-test questions Take your notes here 2-3 sentence summary During class, write your notes in the top right quadrant. After class, spend some time writing a 2-3 sentence summary of what was covered. Use the left-hand column to review and study for the test.
Be strategic in what you write down.	Notes aren't met to be taken word-for-word. You need to listen and consider as you write. ■ What is most important? ■ What relates to the reading? ■ Are there assignment details that need to be noted? Listen for verbal cues from your professor: ✓ "This is important" ✓ "Take note" ✓ "In addition" ✓ "As a result" ✓ "Furthermore" ✓ "Therefore" ✓ Words your professor repeats ✓ Pauses ✓ Increased Volume

Use abbreviations	For example e.g. In other words i.e. Old Testament OT New Testament NT Because b/c, •• Therefore t4, •• Christ † Leads to About (circa) C. or ~ Without w/o Positive + Question ?
Use colour	Use different coloured highlighters or pens to mark important information. For example, you could use one colour to mark key terms and another colour for headings or important points.
Discover a note- taking system that works for you	Are you a visual learner? Consider mind-mapping. Use charts, graphs and illustrations in your notes to help you understand concepts. Are you a read/write learner? Consider outlining and writing down as much as you can. Are you an auditory learner? Only write down key concepts during the lecture. Spend most of your time listening. After class, fill in the gaps in your notes with what you heard. Consider recording lectures. Are you a kinesthetic learner? Make note of examples and applications to theory. Use all your senses to engage in the lecture.
Put your notes to work	Before Class Review notes from the previous class period Format your paper During Class Listen for verbal cues Organize your notes Use abbreviations Use colour Write down questions After Class Summarize your notes Write down key terms and potential test questions



