Did the guy in the red shirt just mention using a particular design? Note it down. Did the girl on the other end of the table counter with why she thinks that design wouldn't work? Note that down as well. At the end of the brainstorming session, go through the notes. Summarize all that has been said and make a decision if possible, or at least narrow down the options.

I have been all about how the habit of taking notes will make your life easier in a variety of ways, but I myself realized this while working on something I will now mention. This is probably the one situation where taking notes is most useful: when you have to write a report describing, for instance, the work done on the project over the last few weeks. Most faculty members would expect you to describe your own approach towards solving the problem, as well as provide an objective discussion of why the other approaches wouldn't work. By the way, when I say "objective", I mean "it just didn't feel right!" does not count as a good reason. To write such a report with sufficient accuracy and lucidity, you *will* need to consult written records of different phases of your work and elaborate on the scratch notes made at the point. What? You don't have any of these notes? Well, good luck with that report then...I'm sure you will need it. See my point yet? If you are taking down notes during those meetings, you will have a very strong reference to fall back on while writing that report some four-six weeks later. I have had the habit of taking notes for almost two years now, but I realized this powerful aspect of the habit only about ten days ago, when I was busy typing my undergraduate thesis. I have had to prepare reports before, but probably because they were on a small scale, I usually managed to get them done with much less work. With the thesis paper, however, things were drastically different. Towards the beginning, I had absolutely no idea where to start and what to write, and just to give myself an idea I started browsing through all the files in the folder labeled "Thesis". Within five minutes, I ran across this bunch of text files of notes made during the meetings with my team members and my supervisor. Within two hours of this, I had a good deal of the report ready and could hardly believe that just a while back I was thinking I would never get anywhere with the report. I think it is safe to say that if I had not been making these notes, the only way to write my report would be going over those phases of my work all over again obviously impossible just two weeks before submission deadline. So, even without realizing it beforehand, I had been maintaining a habit that ended up making my life a whole lot easier.

So, I urge you once again; get into the habit of making notes: be it in class, during meetings or while reading a textbook on your own. It will improve your comprehension, allow you to recall important points better and last but not the least, serve as an excellent reference at times when you are really in need of some information on *your own work.*

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'Here we come'

Tareque Ismail

COME January/February and what does one see...everywhere? Elections? Well, yes, you Bright One. But what else??? The student population swarming towards...what else....Universities! That's what! Why....or rather, "how come?", you ask. Is bunking suddenly not "cool"? It still is and will remain for eternity. Then why the sudden urge to invade unis? Admission-time, guys, it's admission-time!

Heated discussions do the rounds in homes, at Addas, under the tin shed of local chaiwala over a hot Cha, at fast food joints over the usual burgers and fries and pizzas.

Sakib: "Which Uni, man?"

Eresh: "Aw, me? Me goes to LSE's, man! It got style, and I got style!"

Well, well, and I thought people joined universities for educational purposes. Ignorant me!

Mehnaz: "Hey! I go to IUB, coz thatz where my guy is!"

A case of romance ("infatuation" would be a more apt word) prevailing over common sense (if there was any, in the first place!)

Will somebody even mention the words like "course", "degree", "goals".....You know, stuff related to education....coz, I guess, thatz what admissions are all about?

KK: "Hey! You guys know that the Computers Dept at *** is real neat? I'm gonna do my BE(comp) there."

Praise the Lord! SOMEBODY talked "studies"!

Bayazid: "My Dad's friend's brother-in-law's cousin's friend knows some big guy in *** college. He's got it all fixed up." Well, well, what can I say.....around this time sincere parents are busy contacting such "friends", trying to muscle in their "adorer shontan" into the most prestigious of Universities. By the way, all this time, the "adorer shontan" are busy toiling to help fast food joints prosper. So thoughtful!

Then over a period of a month or two, by which time a lot of water has flown under the bridge, or shall we say, a lot of currency has been passed under the table, the fates of many-a-young-things have been assigned to different courses and colleges, and therefore to different addas and chawalas.