

THE ART OF TAKING CLASS NOTES

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Taking hand-written notes is a lost art in the current digital era. Thankfully, owing to our "digital" country's reluctance in converting our classroom into a digital ecosystem, the art is not yet obsolete in this part of the world.

So here I am, an avid note-taker, trying to make a case for this waning art and dropping tips and tricks as to how to master this exotic artform.

You are probably thinking at this point, "What a nerd!" Well, you are definitely not wrong but that is exactly the point. Thanks to the recent mainstream popularisation of nerds through pop culture, nerd IS the new cool. So, you do not want to miss out on becoming the go-to nerd for your entire class. But if instant popularity is not a compelling enough reason and you are a man of reason, hear this out: it helps you stay awake in class.

Now that I have convinced you to take notes here are 5 useful tips that might help you turn your notebook into an aesthetic art piece. So, students, take note.

Go prepared: As they say, "Preparation is half the battle". We tend to wake up on the wrong side of the bed way too often especially before our morning classes. We then continue being as grumpy as Garfield on a Monday morning and refuse to accept the wretched education that makes us haul ourselves to class. In

order to be a master note-taker, you need to be obnoxiously eager like Spongebob instead. Sit on that deserted front seat to render yourself incapable of casually zoning out. Once you realise you cannot do anything better, taking notes does not feel all that bad.

Keep an open mind: Once you have forced yourself to be prepared, you are now ready to start taking notes. But remember, always keep an open mind. Do not just jot down the points from the slides and whatever is explicitly stated. Keep a keen open mind to pick out the smallest things from the lectures. Even if your Economics teacher for some reason unknown goes on a philosophical rambling adventure and says vague things like "If the goal is the destination, then the mean is the road", be open to noting it down - or perhaps tattooing it on your forearms if required.

Be a good listener: Mastering the art of listening not only opens up your chances of becoming a master at the Citadel but also equips you with the inevitable life lesson. To quote Plutarch, "Learn how to listen and you will prosper even from those who talk badly". So do not be that annoying person who keeps interrupting a lecture and asks to repeat every 5 minutes. Listen to what the teachers have to say and summarise the key points once they are over a small significant portion of the topic. Understand first and then jot the ideas. Otherwise

THE CORNELL NOTE TAKING METHOD

BEST FOR
Understanding key ideas and relationships

| CUES 2.5 INCHES | NOTES 6 INCHES |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cues ● After Class <i>Main ideas, prompts & questions.</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notes ● During Class <i>Main points and details from class</i> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After Class <i>Summary of the lesson, highlighting</i> | |

SUMMARY 2 INCHES

you will miss a lot of important take-aways.

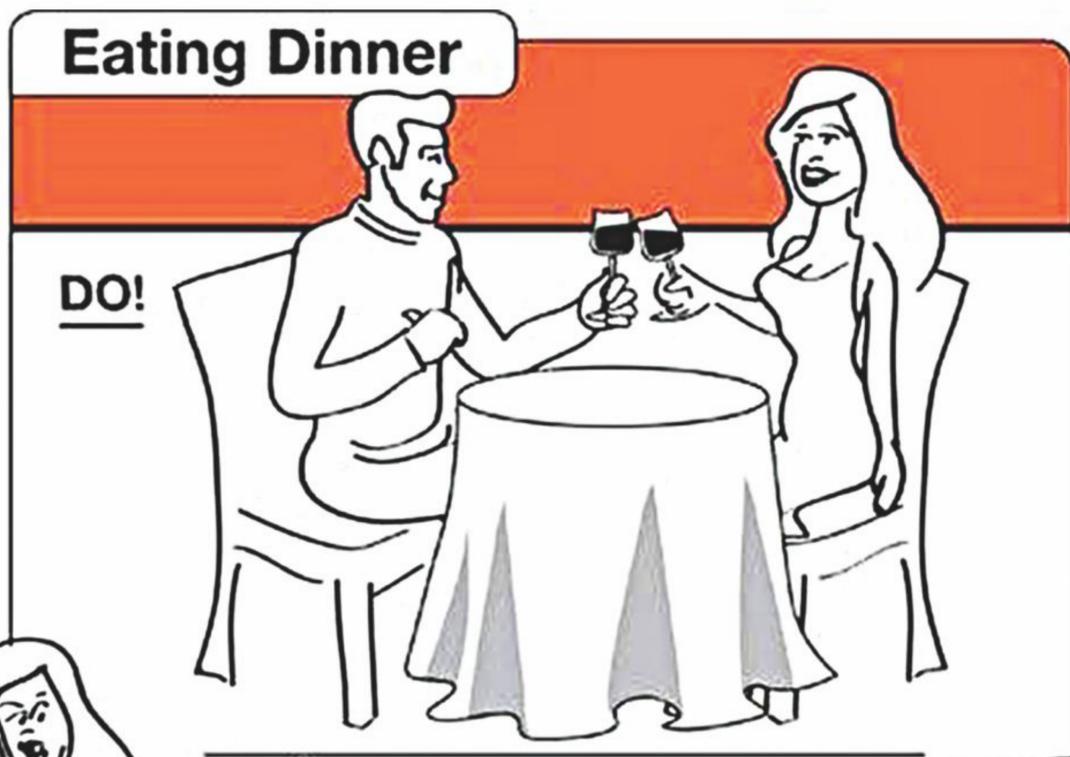
Make your own canvas: Treat your notebook like a meticulously crafted masterpiece. Use multiple header styles for different layers of headers, different bullet points for topics and sub-topics, illustrations, arrows and markings to create a clear image of the content. You can even use your intense lettering skills from years of calligraphy on Instagram and Pinterest to embellish your notes. Keep separate notebooks for each subject for consistency and clarity.

Review and share your notes: Once you are done with taking notes it is

important to review and edit (if necessary) after class. Rechecking spellings of difficult proper nouns is essential. When you are done with reviewing, share your class notes. Is sharing necessary? No, but a fully functioning decent human being should share good things. So, share away.

"The weakest ink is stronger than the strongest memory." So you could try these easy steps out. Or, you know, just sleep through all of it.

Nafis Imtiaz Onish believes grinning is the answer to everything and avidly loves art, astronomy & all things nerdy. Send him Carl Sagan fan art at nafisimtiaz17@gmail.com



HOW TO ACT ON A FIRST DATE

HUMOUR

TASNIM ODRIKA

Finally asked that boy/girl out? Great! You're halfway on your way to disappointmentville where you will be constantly let down but you'll still have to keep pretending you're having a good time and this is what you want; when we all know what you really want is just a donut.

Okay, so now the question stands, "How do I lure the other person into thinking dating and relationships are something magical?"

The first step is inducing a bit of mystery. The thrill of any new relationship comes from getting to know a new person. So, in order to keep the mystery alive it's imperative to not reveal anything about yourself on the first date. The answer to all your date's questions must be given by brooding nods.

Now, this next step might contradict with the previous step. After you've spent a good 30

minutes giving deep, brooding nods, it's time to seal the deal by agreeing with everything your date says and pretending you like the same things. This doesn't actually go against the first rule because you're not actually revealing anything about your true self. What you're doing is creating the exact persona of your date. Because your date might not like who YOU are as a person, but, they can't hate themselves.

Moving on, most of us spend a big portion of time deciding on what to wear on the first date. If you really want to impress, you will first research on what your date likes and dislikes and dress accordingly. So, if you see that their liked music on Facebook includes Mayday Parade and All Time Low, then it's time to cut those bangs and borrow your mom's eye liner. The idea is to become the complete image of the person you're dating so that at one point it becomes difficult to even distinguish the two from each other. The day the two of you manage to turn into a complete blob is the day you have succeeded in the relationship.

Tasnim Odrika is having an existential crisis at the moment and doesn't really know who she is anymore. Send her compliments at odrika_02@yahoo.com.

