

## NOTE-TAKING IN COLLEGE

**PICTURE THIS:** You're sitting in lecture and the professor is talking up a storm. You're scrambling to write down everything you can, but you can't keep up and find yourself missing information. Now what?



Note-taking in classes is critical to your success as a student, *but it isn't necessarily easy!* Here are some tips to help with the art of note-taking:

- **Do not try and write down everything at once.**
  - You will never realistically be able to keep up
- **Look for clues from your professor.**
  - If your professor is pointing at something, identifies a person, definition or example, or repeats information...this most likely means that this is important information!
- **Have a note-taking structure.**
  - Bullet points, phrases, and tables get help keep the information more organized
- **Handwrite your notes, don't type them!**
  - This is a tough one for many students. Yes, you can capture more information by typing<sup>1</sup>, but you are less likely to be critically thinking about what you are actually writing.
  - When you are handwriting, you are better able to distinguish what is vital and crucial information.
  - You are writing down more valuable information, not just writing down all the information.

<sup>1</sup>May, C. (2014, June 03). A learning secret: Don't take notes with a laptop. Retrieved March 12, 2021, from <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>