

Writing and Study Skills Services – Laurier Brantford
Visual Note Taking

Visual note taking can be a great way to synthesize and understand your notes. Some students like to take notes during lecture using visual-organization (e.g. charts) or graphic-representation (e.g. pictures) techniques. The types of notes you take depend upon the content and your purpose for taking notes. Visual note taking can also be a strategy that students can incorporate into exam preparation, by reorganizing information into new study notes or by adding pictures and colour to existing notes.

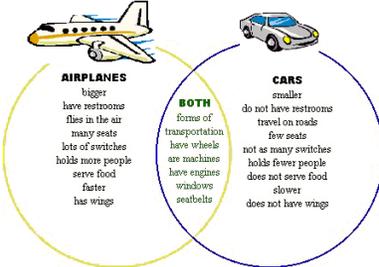
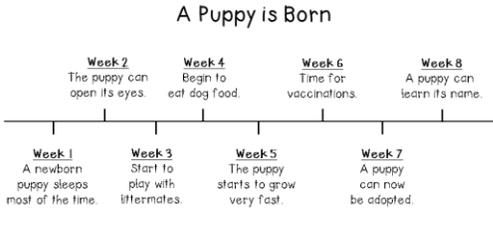
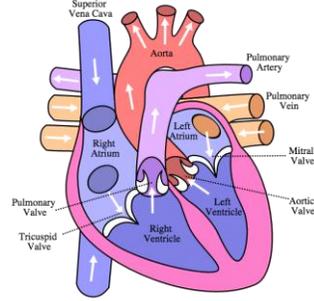
The Benefits of Graphic Organizers

- Visual notes can help you make connections and understand concepts:
 - Understanding improves by seeing connections within the big picture;
 - Making connections makes information easier to recall;
- Establishing meaningful connections between the information and your prior knowledge and experiences enhances learning:
 - You use higher order thinking skills by evaluating the information to create an image associated with it; therefore, you are thinking about what you are learning in a new way that will help you understand and recall information easily.
- Thinking in pictures helps you analyse and interpret information, using your abilities to recall and understand.
 - Pictures and visuals expand your understanding and allow you to analyze and interpret information (Pauk 2001, 323).
 - Thinking visually increases understanding and remembering of information because you use both sides of your brain (Pauk 2001, 326)

How to Start Taking Visual Notes

- Convert the sentences you've read or heard into a diagram or graph.
- Use concept maps to summarize key concepts or redraw the map to include new concepts and more information.
- Link new ideas in your map to ones you already know or redraw your map to gain a different view of the information.
- Don't be afraid to use colours, symbols, shapes, different font sizes and types.
- Focus on main ideas and keep information concise.
- Be creative with your notes!

Types of Visual Note Taking Techniques

<p>Concept Map or Mind Map</p> <p>-Used to show how concepts relate to a main idea.</p> <p>-Helps to cement important ideas, concepts and their relationships in your memory.</p>					
<p>Venn Diagram</p> <p>-Used for comparing and contrasting concepts.</p>					
<p>Timeline</p> <p>-Used to understand a sequence of events.</p>	<p>A Puppy is Born</p> 				
<p>T-Chart</p> <p>-Used for comparison between concepts.</p>	<p>Absolute vs. Relative Age (Draw a T Chart in your Notebook)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Relative Age</th> <th>Absolute Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the age of an object in relation to other objects "Estimate" Index Fossils, Rock layers Example: A friend tells you she has 2 brothers – one that's older than her and one that's younger </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the actual age in years of an object "Exact" Radiometric dating, half life, radioactive decay Example: I have one brother who is 8 years old and one who is 17 years old </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Relative Age	Absolute Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the age of an object in relation to other objects "Estimate" Index Fossils, Rock layers Example: A friend tells you she has 2 brothers – one that's older than her and one that's younger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the actual age in years of an object "Exact" Radiometric dating, half life, radioactive decay Example: I have one brother who is 8 years old and one who is 17 years old
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<p>Diagram</p> <p>-Used to understand how an object works or the different components of an object.</p>					

References

Andrade, Jackie. "What does Doodling do?" *Applied Cognitive Psychology* 24 (2010): 100-106. Web.

Paul, Walter. 2001. *How to Study in College*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. Print.