

# How to Take Great Notes

Adapted from The **BIG FAT NOTEBOOK™** Series

## 1 WRITE (OR DRAW) ONLY THE REALLY IMPORTANT STUFF

✦ **WRITE** rather than type, even if your handwriting is messy. Although you take more notes with a laptop, you learn more if you're writing. Why? You have to listen closely to catch the important stuff, and then summarize it in your own words so you can keep up, which helps with comprehending and remembering the info.

✦ **DOODLE!** A picture is worth 1,000 words, so doodle the idea, title it, and save yourself from 999 unnecessary words!



## 2 GIVE EVERY IDEA A HOME

✦ Make main ideas and key points your headers in **GREEN ALL CAPS**. Put details and supporting facts underneath.



## 3 VISUALLY GROUP THINGS THAT ARE ALIKE

✦ Use **BLUE PEN** for important people, places, dates, and terms so they pop out at you when you're looking for an answer or reviewing for a test.

✦ Write any words you don't know and highlight them in **YELLOW**.

Then, look up the word after class and write the definition next to it. Highlight the definition while you're at it.

✦ You're not the boss of me! I'm using red!



## 4 MAKE IT PERSONAL

Take what you're hearing and put it into a form that makes the most sense to YOU:

✦ Is it a **LIST**, like the names of the first 13 colonies? → Try bullet points.

✦ Is it a **DESCRIPTION**, like a crucial setting of a book? → Doodle the scene.

✦ Is it a **PROCESS**, like the water cycle? → Draw a flowchart or write a checklist.

✦ Is it a **CHAIN OF EVENTS**, like the Industrial Revolution? → Create a timeline.

✦ Is it just something you have to **MEMORIZE**? → Make up a silly mnemonic.

Or set it to your favorite song.

What a novel idea.



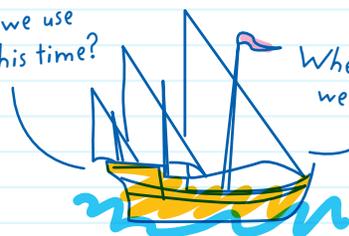
## 5 GIVE YOURSELF ROOM TO GROW

✦ **LEAVE SOME SPACE** after each main idea or key point. You may need to add something you missed!

✦ Reread or even rewrite your notes, color in your doodles, look up the important date you missed, find out more about that cool person you heard about. **REVIEWING AND EXPANDING** your notes is an easy way to study so you can ace your class.



Can we use GPS this time?



Where else can we explore?



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