Making Power Notes

Power notes help you organize the chemical concepts you are studying by distinguishing main ideas from details. Similar to outlines, power notes are linear in form and provide you with a framework of important concepts. Power notes are easier to use than outlines because their structure is simpler. Using the power notes numbering system you assign a *1* to each main idea and a *2, 3,* or *4* to each detail.

Power notes are an invaluable asset to the learning process, and they can be used frequently throughout your chemistry course. You can use power notes to organize ideas while reading your text or to restructure your class notes for studying purposes.

To learn to make power notes, practice first by using single-word concepts and a subject you are especially interested in, such as animals, sports, or movies. As you become comfortable with structuring power notes, integrate their use into your study of chemistry. For an easier transition, start with a few boldfaced or italicized terms. Later you can strengthen your notes by expanding these single-word concepts into more-detailed phrases and sentences. Use the following general format to help you structure your power notes.

Power 1: Main idea
Power 2: Detail or support for power 1
Power 3: Detail or support for power 2
Power 4: Detail or support for power 3

1. Pick a Power 1 word from the text.
The text you choose does not have to come straight from your chemistry textbook. You may be making power notes from your lecture notes or from an outside source. We'll use the term *atom* found in Chapter 3, Section 2 of your textbook.

Power 1: Atom

2. Using the text, select some Power 2 words to support your Power 1 word.
We'll use the terms *nucleus* and *electrons,* which are two parts of an atom.

Power 1: Atom
Power 2: Nucleus
Power 2: Electrons

3. Select some Power 3 words to support your Power 2 words.
We'll use the terms *positively charged* and *negatively charged,* two terms that describe the Power 2 words.

Power 1: Atom
Power 2: Nucleus
Power 3: Positively charged
Power 2: Electrons
Power 3: Negatively charged