Note-taking Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet will give a quick rundown of helpful abbreviations to use when taking notes, quick fixes to make your notes more effective, and some common styles of note-taking.

Abbreviations

Therefore: ∴
Because: b/c
With: w/
Without: w/o

5. In relation to: irt

6. And: &

7. Government: govt8. Especially: esp

9. Example: ex

10. Per: / 11. At: @

12. Section: §

13. About/nearly: ~

14. About/regarding: re

15. Important: *

16. Leads to:

17. Increases:

18. Decreases:

Quick Fixes

- 1. Instead of copying large blocks of text into your notes word-for-word, try paraphrasing large chunks of text into smaller, digestible sentences that capture the main idea.
- 2. Instead of drawing very detailed diagrams during lecture and falling behind, try marking a box of space to draw in the diagram later and continue following along with the professor.
- 3. Instead of highlighting everything to the point where highlighting isn't effective anymore, try highlighting key questions, main ideas, and vocab words or important equations.
- 4. Try writing headings in a bigger font or different color so they are easy to find when you are going back and looking for certain topics. If you use a computer or tablet for notes, you can search for the heading name to find it easily later. If you use a notebook or binder, use post-it notes or stickies to mark where new chapters or topics begin.

5. Instead of only reviewing notes right before a test, try going back through your notes each night so that you don't forget everything. Sometimes it's hard for the brain to register everything during a fast-paced lecture, so this gives it a chance for information to sink in.

Styles

Outlining Method

- good for lengthy lectures and readings
- works well with both typing and handwriting

Cornell Method

- good for organizing into summaries and key points
- use as effective study/review material

Mind Mapping Method

- very visual and abstract, best for handwriting
- draw out ideas and connect them

One-liner Method

paraphrase bulky information, good for reviewing

Charting Method

makes a good cheat sheet, but set up takes prep

Slides Method

- laptop or tablet are conducive
- easy to do during class, may not help your brain retain the most information

Boxing Method

categorize info into boxes, keep content organized and easy to find

Flowchart Method

• perfect for detailing sequential events and patterns