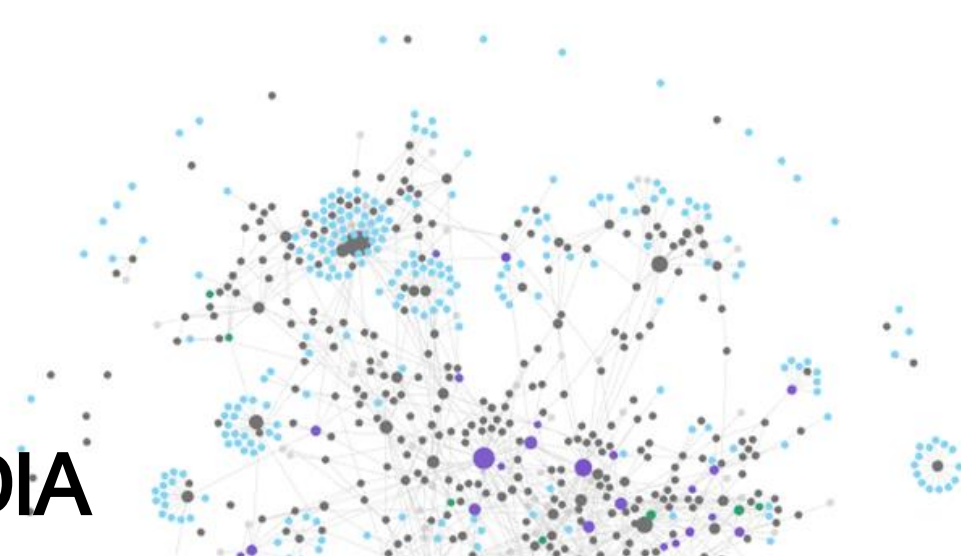


# PERSONAL WIKIPEDIA



**How Obsidian can help you build connections between your notes for school, work & creative projects**

Samantha Yuen

[samantha.yuen@umontreal.ca](mailto:samantha.yuen@umontreal.ca)

May 6, 2021

# Breakout Rooms

1. How & why do you take notes?
2. Did you download Obsidian yet?
3. Did you read an article before the workshop?

Get in groups of 3-4.

Have one person answering the **question** and one person with a **timer**.

Alternate every **minute**.

Write in the chat your answers for #2 and #3

6-8 min

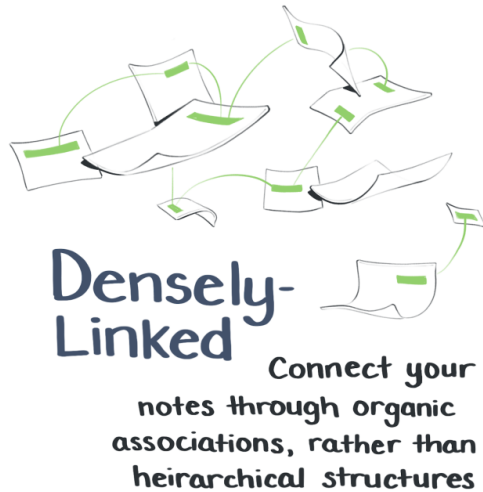


**Instead of storing away our notes, what if we could keep building and updating what we know in a unified space?**

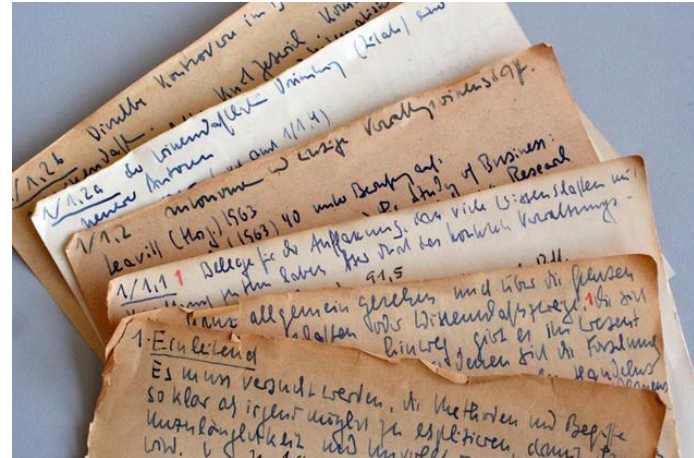


# The Personal Wikipedia

- A **reference** for information the way you understand it
- **You** decide the file structure & organization
- The structure, content and workflow **evolves** over time as you use it



[Evergreen Notes](#) by Andy Matuschak



[Zettelkasten](#) by Niklas Luhmann

# A second brain, for you, forever.

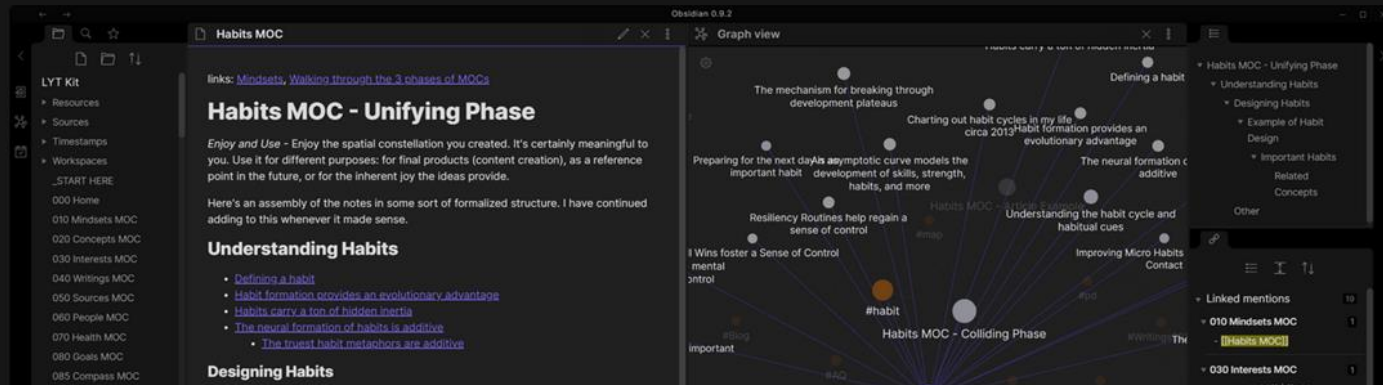
Obsidian is a powerful knowledge base that works on top of  
a local folder of plain text Markdown files.

Get Obsidian for Windows  
Beta version 0.11.13

Also available for macOS, [Linux \(AppImage\)](#), [Linux \(Snap\)](#), and [Linux \(Flatpak\)](#). [More platforms.](#)



- Markdown Editor
- Locally Stored (secure)
- Easy to link to notes
- You decide the structure



# Outline

## What can you do with Obsidian?

- Obsidian vs Other Apps

## Walkthroughs

1. Obsidian Basics
  - Setting up Obsidian + What is Markdown + Main Features of Obsidian
2. Create personal notes from an article

## Resources + Questions

# Obsidian allows us to easily create links in

The image displays a complex network graph from an Obsidian vault. At the center is a large purple circle labeled "Physics MOC". Radiating from this central hub are numerous smaller nodes, each representing a different physics topic. These nodes are interconnected by thin purple lines, forming a dense web of relationships. The nodes include:

- Kinematics
- Dynamics
- Thermodynamics
- Mechanics
- Electricity & Magnetism
- Optics
- Modern Physics
- Mathematical Tools
- Reference Frames
- Force of Friction & Inclines
- Unit Vectors
- Weight vs Mass
- Acceleration
- Velocity & Speed
- Newton's Laws of motion
- Vectors & Scalars
- Physics Cheat Sheet

Each node is further linked to specific files or documents, indicated by smaller text labels next to them. For example, the "Kinematics" node is linked to "Projectile Motion 1D", "Projectile Motion 2D", and "Balanced and Unbalanced Forces". The "Dynamics" node is linked to "Normal Force is a type of Contact Force" and "Force of Friction & Inclines". The "Thermodynamics" node is linked to "Heat Transfer" and "Temperature". The "Mechanics" node is linked to "Work & Energy" and "Momentum". The "Electricity & Magnetism" node is linked to "Coulomb's Law" and "Electric Fields". The "Optics" node is linked to "Reflection" and "Refraction". The "Modern Physics" node is linked to "Special Relativity" and "Quantum Mechanics". The "Mathematical Tools" node is linked to "Calculus" and "Algebra". The "Reference Frames" node is linked to "Galilean Relativity" and "Special Relativity". The "Force of Friction & Inclines" node is linked to "Friction" and "Inclines". The "Unit Vectors" node is linked to "Vector Analysis" and "Coordinate Systems". The "Weight vs Mass" node is linked to "Gravity" and "Mass". The "Acceleration" node is linked to "Kinematics" and "Dynamics". The "Velocity & Speed" node is linked to "Kinematics" and "Dynamics". The "Newton's Laws of motion" node is linked to "Dynamics" and "Mechanics". The "Vectors & Scalars" node is linked to "Mathematical Tools" and "Mechanics". The "Physics Cheat Sheet" node is linked to "All Topics" and "Summary".

On the right side of the image, there is a sidebar titled "Physics MOC" which contains a list of links and tags. The links section shows a link to "[P-Tutoring]" and a tag "#tutoring". Below this, there is a section titled "Secondary" which lists several topics under the heading "Kinematics":

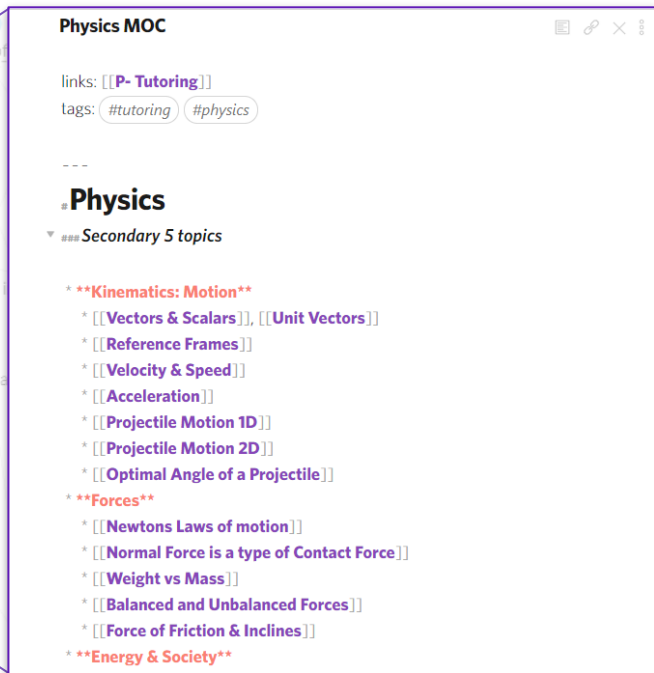
- [Vectors]
- [Reference Frames]
- [Velocity]
- [Acceleration]
- [Projectile Motion]
- [Projectiles]
- [Optical Properties]

Under the heading "Forces", it lists:

- [Newton's Laws]
- [Normal Force]
- [Weight]
- [Balance]
- [Force of Friction]

At the bottom, under the heading "Energy & Momentum", it lists:

- [Work & Energy]
- [Momentum]





# Examples of Other use Cases

- Research [1][2]
- [World Building for Writers](#)
- Outlining papers/ Projects
- Workplace Notes
- [University Notes](#)
- [Others](#)

- Obsidian 0.8.15
- ## Unique Identifier Tags
  - ### Joe
    - Difference between secular / spiritual / religious (internal and external)
      - [[010 spiritual|spiritual]] #spiritual
      - [[020 secular|secular]] #secular
      - [[030 religious|religious]] #religious
    - How do they differ in ways of life, broadly construed, to include practices, social organization, economic class, etc.? How do they differ in habitus and not just doxa or worldview?
      - [[040 ways of life|ways of life]] #waysoflife #practices #habitus
    - What is the landscape of secularization? How has secularization been understood and is currently understood in the United States?
      - [[025 secularization]] #secularization #secularity
  - ### David
    - [[050 historiography|historiography]] #historiography #history
    - [[055 consensus|consensus]] #evangelical #evangelicals #evangelicalconsensus #secularprotestant
    - [[056 death bed ritual|deathbed]] #death #deathritual #innovation
    - [[057 regionalism|regionalism]] #regional #region #West
    - [[058 Law and Death]] #legal
  - ### Ann
    - 15-Week Upper Division Religious Studies Course
      - Grief, NDEs, and Dying
        - [[060 rationale upper|rationale upper]] #rationaleupper
    - 15-Week Lower Division Religious Studies Course
      - Survey course, maybe structured like a training
        - [[070 rationale lower|rationale lower]] #rationalelower
    - Identify experience [[080 grief|grief]] #grief
      - Phenomenological description
      - How scholars in different fields discuss it
      - Research examples from science and humanities
      - How I can translate between science and humanities
    - Compare and contrast how researchers from three different research traditions (humanistic, social scientific, and clinical) have approached the experience.
      - [[090 humanities|humanities]] #humanities
      - [[100 social science|social science]] #socialsciences

2008. 2. The Last Supper Tradition, Schweitzer

Abstracts

1968. Sources, Date and Transmission of Didache 1.3b-2.1. Layton

2016. Wisdom of Sirach and the Glue, Jefford

191. Will examine Paul, Mark, Matt, Luke, and Justin Martyr

The Oral Tradition. 20

In the beginning...

A Brief History

It's difficult to say which came first, because nobody really knows for sure. What is known, however, is that the Fixture certainly has the power to make it; They're the only thing present that is unchanging. Well, them and Yosab. There were a small handful of others present soon after the Grounds came to be, beings that quickly set to filling the vast landscape before them with whatever suited their imaginations.

Slowly, more beings filtered in — Succinea Being, from omniverse, that figured out there was something bigger than their homes. They found ways to create not just universes, but the frameworks that support them. Eventually, they gave themselves a title: Builders. Fitting, given how they busy themselves.

Unsurprisingly, bickering slowly began between the new denizens. Bickering gave way to arguments, arguments to fighting. Builders eventually worked out a sort of truce: Some of them would work together to create entities,

Jexie Avinor Hartwell

Wealth Incarnate

Proprietor of the Hartwell Clinic for Relaxation, Jexie is a man whose power is derived from his "considerable" wealth... though exactly what that wealth is remains up for debate. However, funds are never in short supply around him, and as he loves to say,

Any good wealth is best when shared.

Mosol

Oasis

Savris

Laci Heart

Zerana

Status: 🟢

Tags: Character

Zerana

A Thoughtful Power

The eldest daughter of Jexie Avinor Hartwell and Laci Heart, Zerana is no less capable than her parents.

H(e)artfelt Retreats

Main article: Hartfelt Retreats

By the Strength of Connection

Hoosier

# How do Other Note-taking Apps Compare?

	Google Docs	MS Word	One Note	Obsidian	Evernote	Notion
<b>Features</b>						
Text Formatting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PDF Export	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cloud-Sync	✓	-	✓	0 to 4 USD	✓	✓
Templates	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓
Wiki-links [[ ]]	-	-	-	✓	-	✓
Backlinks	-	-	-	✓	-	✓
Graph View	-	-	-	✓	-	-
<b>Customizability</b>						
Community Plugins	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Themes	-	-	-	✓	Light/Dark	Ligh/Dark
<b>App Info &amp; Storage</b>						
Price (for personal use)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Local First Storage	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Mobile App	✓	✓	✓	✓ (beta)	✓	✓
Web-access	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Windows	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MacOS	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linux	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
<b>Total</b>	8	10	10	15	10	13

### Atoms

Basic unit of matter that consists of a dense central nucleus surrounded by a cloud of negatively charged electrons.

### Lysosome

A vesicle that contains destructive/digestive chemicals.

### Exocytosis

Movement out of a cell.

### Isotonic Solution

The same concentration of dissolved substances.  
Water in = Water out

### Hypertonic Solution

Higher concentration of solutes outside cell than inside.

### Plasmolysed

When a cell has shrunk.

### Cell membrane

a thin membrane around the cytoplasm of a cell.



# Walkthroughs



# 1

# Obsidian Basics

Creating a vault + Setting up

Make a note

Markdown

Wiki-links

Back-links

Panes

Quick Switcher (CTRL-O)

Command Palette (CTRL-P)

Graph view



# Obsidian Markdown Cheat Sheets

Element	Markdown Syntax
Heading	# H1 ## H2 ### H3
Bold	<b>**bold text**</b>
Italic	<i>*italicized text*</i>
Blockquote	> blockquote
Ordered List	1. First item 2. Second item 3. Third item
Unordered List	- First item - Second item - Third item
Code	`code`
Horizontal Rule	---
Link	[title](https://www.example.com)
Image	![alt text](image.jpg)

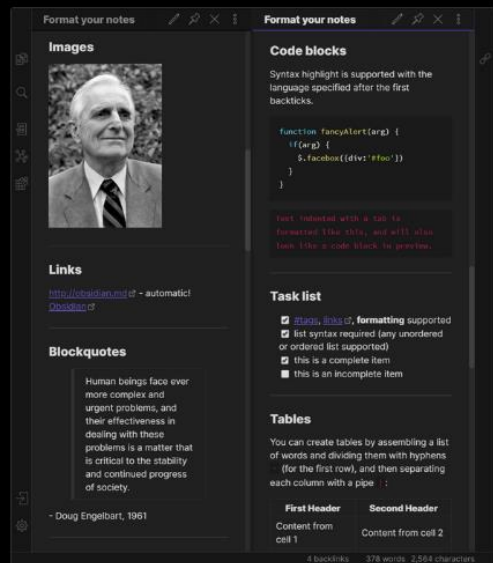
## PORTABLE AND EXPRESSIVE

For portability, Obsidian supports CommonMark and GitHub Flavored Markdown (GFM):

- Code fence with **syntax highlighting**
- | Markdown **table** |
- - [x] **Task list**
- ~~Strikethrough~~

For expressiveness, Obsidian also supports:

- **#Tags**
- **\$\$LaTeX math\$\$**
- **[^Footnotes]**
- **[[Internal links]]**
- **![[Filename]]** to embed notes and other files



# Breakout Rooms

**It's your turn to try out Obsidian!**

Get in groups of 3-4.

One person should screenshare if someone in the group has not downloaded the software yet.

Create some notes, explore the software!

6-8 min



Questions so far?

Graduate Matters

## Making time and space for graduate school during a pandemic

Grad students, especially in the humanities, need to structure their time in a way that allows for schoolwork and social activities.

BY BARAA ARAR | NOV 23 2020

CAREER COLUMN • 25 NOVEMBER 2020

## Why seek a single mentor when you can have three — or more

Anna Henschel's experience in seeking out a board of mentors enabled her to build a powerful support structure.

Anna Henschel 

Pick an article, any article  
(or have your course notes handy)

## What if This Isn't a Good Time for Getting To Know Yourself?

When the relentless focus on yourself is failing you, it may be time to put your attention on others



Marta Brzosko Jan 28 • 6 min read ★



## This Year I'm Not Setting Goals: I'm Creating Practices

How to make sure you get where you want to be by focusing on the process instead of on the outcomes



Silvia Bastos Jan 25 • 5 min read ★



## How To Love Running, Whatever the Weather

I had to learn the way to set a default position for my mind so I could run (or achieve anything) all year round



Ashley Sandeman Jan 8 • 9 min read ★



# 2

## Taking Notes from an Article

**Create a note dedicated to that article**

Which part(s) of the article(s) intrigued you? Why?

Does this make you think of another idea or concept?

Does it relate to a personal experience or another piece of media?

# Breakout Rooms

**Let's try taking personal notes with the article you read**

Get in groups of 3-4.

One person should screenshare if someone in the group has not downloaded the software yet.

Each person try to create  $\geq 1$  note based on the article they read.

6-8 min

# Resources

- [Zettelkasten](#)
- Building Your Second Brain [[1](#)][[2](#)]
- Justin's [Effective Remote Work](#) - [Basics, examples of note-taking workflows.](#)
- Nick Milo's [Linking Your Thinking](#) - Example [vault](#) you can download
- Bryan Jenks [Advanced Obsidian Tips](#)
- [Productivity Guru](#) - technical Obsidian videos

## Books

- Sonke Ahrens - How to Take Smart Notes
- David Allen - Getting Things Done

The Obsidian Discord community and Discourse forums are a great place to ask questions!

# Other Topics

- Cloud sync
- Pinning, Starring Files + Search terms, REGEX
- Core/Community Plugins
  - Templates
  - Citations
  - Calendar
  - Sliding Panes / Obsidian Tab / Cycle Panes/ Pane Relief
  - Dataview
  - Outliner
- Theme Customization (CSS)
  - Personal Favorites: Minimal, Discordian
- YAML headers (Metadata aka data about data)