

## Linear notes

- These are traditional notes whereby information is taken down line by line.
- Use headings, spaces, questions and bullet points to make information more memorable.

# Contextual Notes

## Modernism

- Late 19th-20th Century
- Break from traditional forms

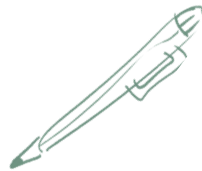
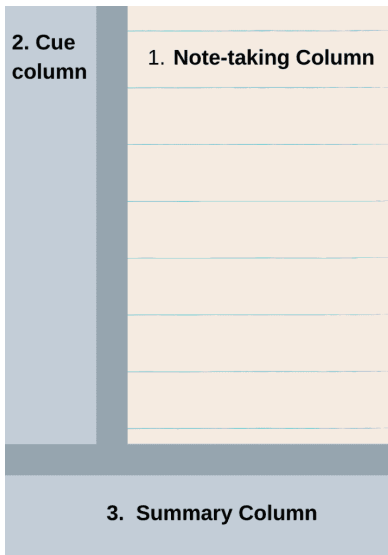
## Artworks:

- Les Femmes d'Alger by Pablo Picasso
- Impression, Sunrise by Claude Monet
- Cut-outs by Henri Matisse
- Paintings by Joan Miró and Mark Rothko
- Sculptures by Constantin Brancusi and Alberto Giacometti
- Drowning Girl by Roy Lichtenstein
- Nude Descending a Staircase
- No. 2 by Marcel Duchamp

## Sources to look up:

## Cornell notes

- Use the note-taking column **(1)** for main notes.
- Afterwards, use the cue column **(2)** as a prompt with key words or questions for the information on the right.
- The summary section **(3)** gives an overview.



**Cornell provide  
a useful course:**  
<https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/1451>

## Find out more:



**Read:**

Buzan, T. (2002) *How to mind map*.  
London: Thornton.

Godfrey, J. (2014 ) *Reading and making notes*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Open University (2025) *Note taking techniques*. Available at:  
<https://help.open.ac.uk/notetaking-techniques> (Accessed: 03 March 2025).  
Rhode, M. (2013) *The sketchbook handbook*. San Francisco: Peachpit.



## Watch:

Gregory, S (2010) *How to make a mind map*. Available at:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g&t=3s) (Accessed: 03 March 2025).



**Scan the QR code:** book a tutorial/workshop or access remote resources.

**Get in touch:**  
study.skills@norwich.ac.uk



- **What to capture: p.1.**
- **Memorable and visual notes: p. 2.**
- **Note-taking methods: pp. 3-4.**
- **Find out more: p. 5.**

# Study Skills



# Taking Notes

## What to capture?



### Harvard reference:

<https://library.norwichuni.ac.uk/referencing/get-started-with-referencing/>



**Key points:** arguments, quotations or examples that link to your research.



**Initial analysis:** what does it show? How does it link to your research or to other sources?



**Further research:** themes, examples or sources to research.

## Digital tools

- **Xmind** for digital mind mapping: <https://xmind.app/>
- **MS OneNote** can be used to store and keep notes: [www.onenote.com](http://www.onenote.com)

## Tips for memorable notes

- Place clear dates, headings and white space between topics.
- Use abbreviations and symbols.
- Example abbreviations: <https://tinyurl.com/jdmpzbpa>
- For important information, try highlights, underlines or boxes.



## Active versus passive notes

- **Active** = being engaged, identifying key information, making links, adding your thoughts and questions.
- **Passive** = taking everything down, bookmarking or keeping URLs without any analysis as to why it's important.

## Visual notes

- Visual notes incorporate elements such as diagrams, images or icons.
- They can be a concise way of capturing complex ideas.

See 3 types of visual note-taking (right).

## Mind map

- Start with an image/word in the centre.
- Create branches from the centre with your main ideas.
- Make smaller branches (associated ideas) stem from the main ideas.
- Use images and symbols to represent ideas (Buzan, 2002, pp. 28-32).



## Concept map

- This is a more text based approach.
- Include key concepts (information in boxes), and linking phrases (key words that go between concepts).
- Find out more at **CMAP**: <http://cmap.ihmc.us/docs/learn.php>

## Sketchnoting

- Invented by Mark Rhodes, this uses a mixture of 'handwriting, drawing, hand-drawn typography, shapes, and visual elements like arrows, boxes and lines' (Rhode, 2013, p. 2).
- Visit Rhodes' YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@MikeRohde](http://www.youtube.com/@MikeRohde)

