



The F.I.L.T.E.R.\$ Method for Taking Notes

Take the best, dump the rest

Purpose: Use the “FILTERS” method to help you identify the most significant points in textbook passages. Historians pay close attention to chronology, so every time you see an event as the “first time...” or as the “turning point” you know that it represents important information to capture in your notes.

F	Firsts: events occurring that are the first of its kind + significance Foreshadow: warning of future event + significance
I	Ironies: event that seems contrary to what one expects
L	Lasts: events that finalize some action + significance
T	Turning Points: events that represent significant change + significance
E	Exclusions: person/thing is excluded
R	Returns: gains/losses; positive/negative Relations: comparisons made among people, groups, nations
\$	Statistics: numbers are useful because they instruct magnitude