

Five Note Taking Strategies

Dialectical Journal Template

Directions:
In the first column: Write down a direct quote from the text
In the second column: cite the page
In the third column: Explain why you selected this quotation. Why is it important? What do you not understand? Of what did it make you think?

Quotation From the Text	Page Number	Response

Sample Dialectical Journal entry: THE THINGS THEY CARRIED by Tim O'Brien

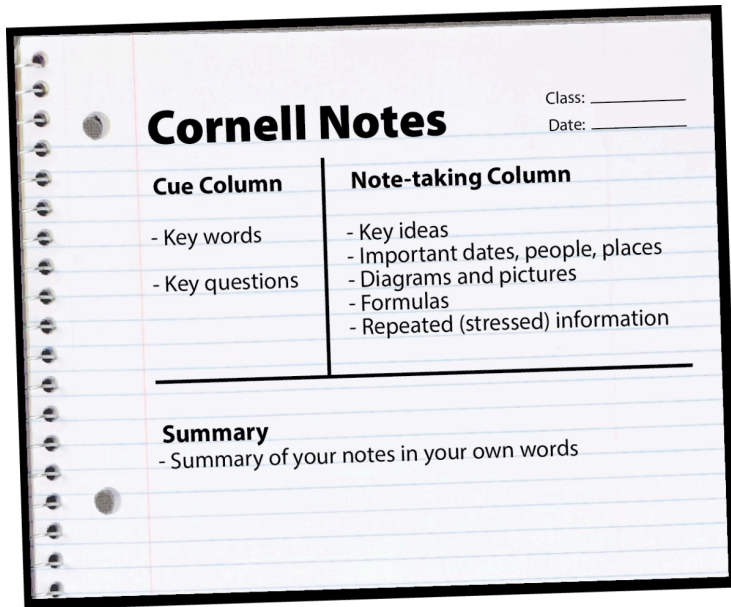
Passages from the text	Comments & Questions
"-they carried like freight trains; they carried it on their backs and shoulders- and for all the ambiguities of Vietnam, all the mysteries and unknowns, there was at least the single abiding certainty that they would never be at a loss for things to carry" (Obrien 2).	(R) O'Brien chooses to end the first section of the novel with this sentence. He provides visual details of what each soldier in Vietnam would carry for day-to-day fighting. He makes you feel the physical weight of what soldiers have to carry for simple survival. <u>When you combine the emotional weight of loved ones at home, the fear of death, and the responsibility for the men you fight with, with this physical weight, you start to understand what soldiers in Vietnam dealt with every day. This quote sums up the confusion that the men felt about the reasons they were fighting the war, and how they clung to the only certainty - things they had to carry - in a confusing world where normal rules were suspended.</u>

The Dialectical or Double-Entry Journal

In the left-hand column, you record important passages from the reading. The right hand column is reserved for your observations about those passages (the WHAT, and HOW from our annotation practice).

The right-hand column is also where you offer analysis, evaluation, and questions (the WHY and WHAT ELSE from our annotations). This generally comes after the WHAT and the HOW as people tend to move from observation to analysis and then evaluation.

←Take a look at this example from *The Things They Carried* to see how one student organized her response.



The Cornell Method

In the left hand column, you record important ideas, questions, or topics. The right hand column is reserved for your notes about that idea, question or topic. These notes should include the **WHAT**, and **HOW** from our annotation practice. The bottom space is reserved for summarizing the information in your own words. This is where you offer analysis, evaluation, and questions - the **WHY** and **WHAT ELSE** from our annotations.

It is best to stick to one topic, idea, or character when using this note-taking method or your notes and summary can become dense and unwieldy.

BHH READING

When you read, think about what is...

★ In the **Book**

- What's this about?
- Who's telling the story?
- What does the author want me to know?



★ In your **Head**

- What surprised me?
- What does the author think I already know?
- What changed, challenged, or confirmed my thinking?
- What did I notice?



★ In your **Heart**

- What did I learn about me?
- How will this help me to be better?



Book, Head, Heart

The Book, Head, Heart method is a way of organizing your reactions to what you read. There are three categories that you respond to:

What is in the book? (this is the **WHAT**, **HOW**, and **WHY** from annotating)

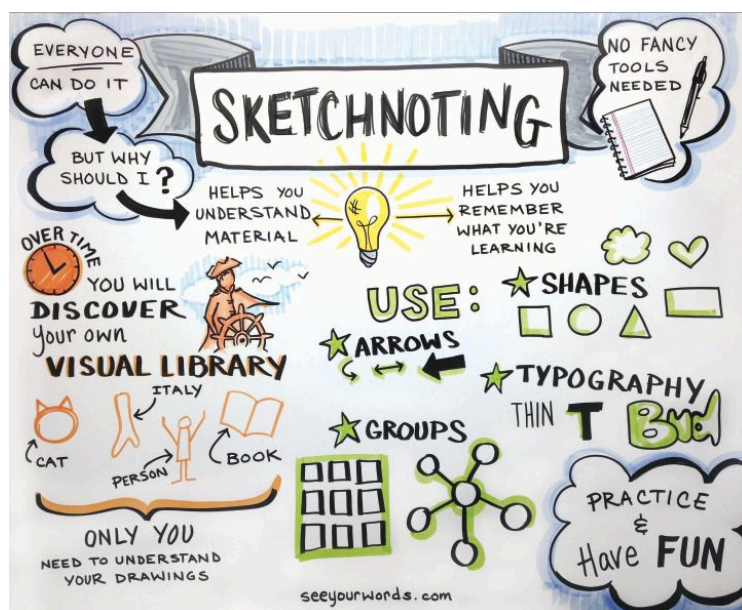
- What is it about?
- Who is telling the story?
- What does the author want me to know?

What is in your head? (this is the **WHAT ELSE** from annotating)

- What surprised me?
- What does the author think I already know?
- What challenged, changed, or confirmed my thinking?
- What did I notice?

What is in your heart?

- How did this make me feel?
- What did I learn about myself from this text?
- How will this help me to be better?



Sketchnoting

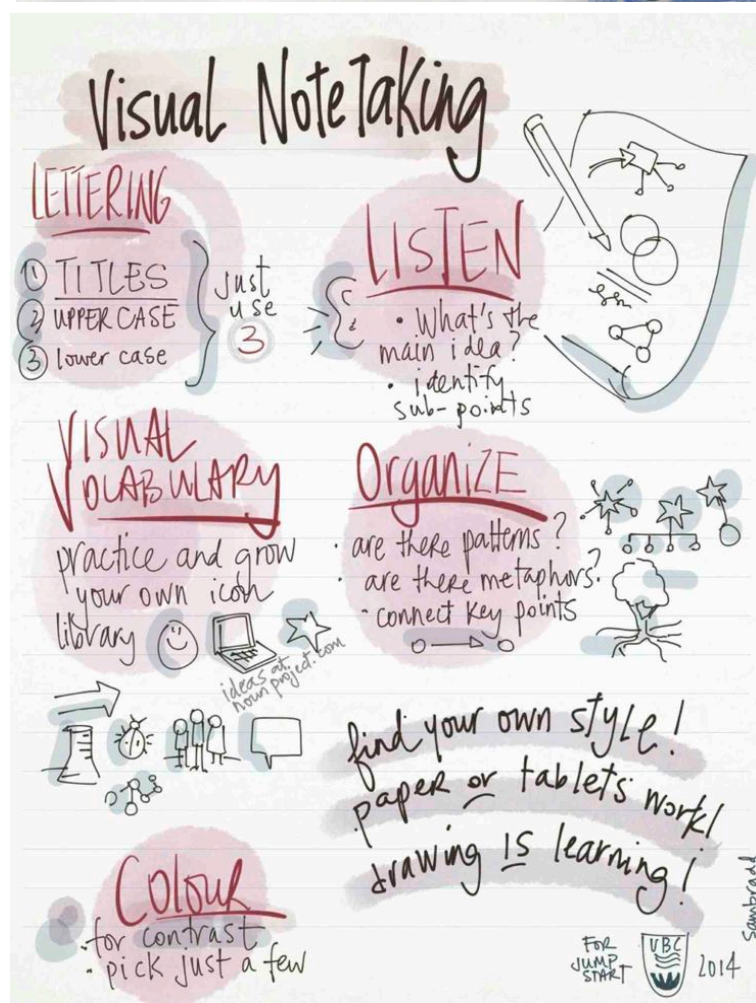
Sketchnoting is just like it sounds - where you pair text with images to record and digest your thoughts.

Color, shapes, drawings, arrows, etc. highlight ideas and show the relationship between things as well as the process behind the thinking.

Since Sketchnoting is a fluid process, there is no "set template." The HOW, WHAT, WHY, and WHAT ELSE can be found on any portion of the page, depending upon how you are organizing the response.

However, it is not an idea free-for all; your thoughts and images have to maintain a clear and purposeful correlation. You can employ whatever artistic tactics work best based on the topic, text, and your own organizational needs and creative aptitude.

You are limited only by your imagination and the amount of ink in your colored pens.



Using this template, take notes on the following categories for each nightly reading assignment.

 Notes	 Quotes
 Questions	 Epiphanies

Highlight the **evidence and observation** from the book in blue - it's the **"WHAT"** and the **"HOW."**

Highlight the **interpretation and analysis in green** - it answers the question **"WHY is this important?"**

Highlight the **"so what" and "WHY ELSE" section in yellow**. You should be able to develop **"What else"** questions and comments after asking **WHAT, HOW,** and **WHY.**

Notes, Quotes, Questions, Epiphanies

As advertised: notes are on the top left, important quotes top right, questions bottom left, epiphanies bottom right.