

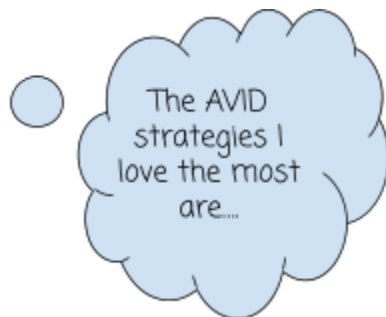
The AVID Advantage

TR's Monthly AVID Newsletter

Issue 5: March/April 2021

AVID Student Testimonials

Student Testimonials



First, a HUGE thanks to everyone who filled out our annual AVID strategy survey. We use that feedback to provide data to AVID as well as to see areas we can improve upon.

One suggestion that came from the survey was to have students share what strategies work best for them. We thought that was a great idea! This issue includes student testimonials about strategies that they feel are beneficial in both in AVID and in content classes. We also provide resources for all the strategies listed.

Have an idea for an upcoming issue? Fill out the form on our website! You can also view all other previous issues of our newsletter and keep up to date on all things AVID!

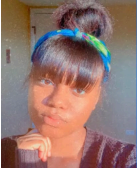
AVID website:

<https://sites.google.com/ttdistrict205.net/travid/for-staff>



Cornell Notes

What students said:



"I personally love to use Cornell notes. I have been using them since I was a sophomore and they have helped me stay organized. Cornell notes are very helpful when I need to study." - *Gabrielle Pearson, AVID-12*

"The AVID strategies that are most useful to me are Cornell Notes, and AVID binders. Cornell notes are very efficient for taking notes and help me understand the notes I took better." - *Roger Stewart, AVID-12*



"I love the Cornell note style, it helps me to organize notes correctly and I can write things down that are beneficial for learning!" - *Labria Gordon, AVID-12*

"I love when teachers use Cornell notes. It helps the class to keep up on what we are learning about and I look forward to using Cornell notes still." - *Racheal Shelton, AVID-12*

"I love when my other teachers allow us to use Cornell notes. Cornell notes is an AVID strategy they use to take notes. It helps me study better and also helps with my weekly avid Cornell more checks." - *Ariel Gardner, AVID-12*



"In my opinion I like the Cornell Notes most helpful for me. The highlighting and chunking are simple and helpful for me to memorize and study with." - *Majestyc Smith, AVID-12*

"Cornell Notes and my AVID Binder are most beneficial to me. I am not an organized person and they have helped keep me organized." *Jocelyn Buckner, AVID-11*



"The AVID strategies that are beneficial to me personally, is using the AVID binder and Cornell Notes. The binder helped me with all the loose paper that I had in my hand walking around with it all day and the c-notes helped me take better notes." - *Carrie Marsh, AVID-11*

When you think of AVID, you probably think of Cornell Notes! Cornell Notes have long been a core AVID strategy. AVID has recently expanded their preferred note-taking method to include a multitude of ways to take notes. Now, AVID refers to this process as focused note-taking. No matter what you call it - year after year, students comment that this style of note taking is one of the most powerful things they learn in AVID.

Whether you want students to take traditional Cornell notes, two column notes, or another format of notes, the process is most important - students must interact with the notes more than once in order for higher retention of the content. *Happy Note Taking!*

Note Taking Resources for you:

- [Digital Focused Note Taking Guide](#) (from AVID)
- [Digital C-note template](#)
- [Digital 2-Column Focused Note Template](#)
- [Digital 3-Column Focused Note Template](#)

Tutorial Groups/CSGs

What students said:



"I love working on the TRFs. They help me study my problems that give me trouble and in turn, turns a weakness into a strength." - *Cameron Goosby, AVID-12*

"The AVID strategy that is the most beneficial to me personally is the TRF. They help in so many ways; they keep me organized and well prepared for any upcoming assignment. The TRFs help me not only in AVID, but in my other classes as well. I am able to maintain good and productive notes and stay on track." - *Victor Solorio, AVID-12*



"I like the tutorial group strategy because I have better chances at getting my questions answered than I do being in a regular class." - *Jayonna Smith, AVID-12*

"TRFs are really important in my last two years of highschool. Taking higher level classes is challenging, and having designated tutors and peers help me solve vigorous work is wonderful. One strategy that a lot of my other teachers use is leaving the floor open for questions, and discussions. I think asking questions and discussing things are crucial to keep the class engaged and making sure everyone has complete understanding." - *Amber Dixon, AVID-12*

"Tutorials! Sometimes teachers don't explain things in a way I can understand. In tutorials, other kids that are in the class are able to explain it to me in a way I can understand better." - *Marvelous Jenkins, AVID-11*



"TRF's, because I feel they helped me become a leader in my class by helping my peers." - *Isaiah Berry, AVID-11*

"TRF's allowed my classmates to help me and vice versa. I really liked that because I never thought I could help people without just giving them the answer." - *Raquel Reynolds, AVID-11*

"Tutorials and Socratic Seminars are the most beneficial strategies for me personally. They help me gain more confidence with public speaking." - *Charla Williams, AVID-11*

"The TRF's are most beneficial to me because when I fill out a TRF, it makes it easier for me to go back and ask a teacher exactly what I need help on." - *Truvail Johnson, AVID-11*

In AVID, we conduct collaborative study groups, known as tutorials, twice a week. Collaborative Study Groups, or CSGs, have long been an AVID staple and can be easily adapted to fit content classes! In CSGs, students work together to solve a

point of confusion they have in a class. Either students pick a problem to work out or the teacher assigns one.

Students prepare for the CSG by filling out their pre-work about the problem. This is where students work to decipher and solve as much of the problem as they can.

Students bring their pre-work to class and use it for their discussion during the CSG. Students then work together to solve their points of confusion.

Fortunately, CSGs can be done virtually by using breakout rooms in your Google Meet!

How To:

- Have students fill out the CSG pre-work before class
 - [Digital Copy of CSG Pre-Work Level 1](#)
 - [Digital Copy of CSG Pre-Work Level 2](#)
 - [Digital Copy of CSG Pre-Work Level 3](#)
- During class, have students read off their specific questions.
- Place students in breakout rooms based on their specific questions.
- Let students discuss and work together to solve their problems. You can go in and out of each breakout room as much as you like!
- At the end of class, come back together in the main meet to discuss the solutions together.

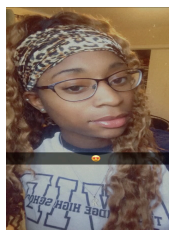
Our favorite way to do breakout rooms is through the extension! If you don't use it yet, click [HERE](#) to learn more about it!

If you would like to see CSGs/tutorials in action, reach out to Adrienne Martinez at amartinez@ttddistrict205.net

Planners & AVID Binders

What Students Said:

"An AVID Strategy that is most beneficial to me is the planner checks. The reason being is because it allows me to plan and keep track of what goes on throughout my week. It helps me prioritize and actually motivate me to actually get things done. If you're more organized and got a plan you're more than likely to get it done. It helps me stick to my word if I tell myself I will do something this day then that's what I will be doing." - *Ariel Gardner, AVID-12*



"Personally, I like the planner check. The planner check helps me keep my stuff in order and it keeps me from not having any missing work from my classes. It helps me stay on track with my work." - *Racheal Shelton, AVID-12*

"The top AVID strategy that is most helpful to me is keeping a planner. I always kept my own personal planner, but I did not use it, but AVID pushed me to use a planner, and that has become a habit daily. It not only keeps me organized, but it helps me to remember important things." - *Amber Dixon, AVID-12*



"I've been with AVID for 3 years and the strategy that I find most beneficial for me personally is the planner checks. I used to forget that I had work due and I'll end up getting a bad grade, but when AVID started making me have a planner for a grade I ended up making it a habit. Now I rarely forget when my work is due." - *Amarie Jenkins, AVID-12*

"Personally, the organized binders were the most beneficial, it birthed a new way of organization for me." - *Jada Johnson, AVID-11*

The O in WICOR stands for organization. AVID has always pushed students to become better organized. This year, we had to change things up a bit. We decided to focus on using a planner and helping out students organize their homework and time. AVID students submit their planners every-other week for grading.

There are a TON of resources for digital planners!

Check out a few here:

- [How to teach students to create one in google slides](#)
- [6 Best Planner Apps for Students](#)
- [Downloadable and Printable Templates](#)
- [myHomework Student Planner Chrome Extension](#)

Social-Emotional Activities

What the students said:



"In my other classes, I love when my teachers want to know what's going on with our mental health. Or what my forensic teacher calls it, "Friday Feels". It's just a powerpoint that asks questions about how our week was and how we felt. It's such an easy assignment but very helpful at the same time. It's nice to know that teachers don't only care about grades and work." - *Ashley Gil, AVID-12*

"A nice strategy that helps me that I've had teachers do for the class is to go off the topic of work and school to distract us from the stress of school. It gives us a chance to clear our mind if even for five minutes." - *Jadea Hunter, AVID-12*



"In my other classes, I love when we play games to help the classes become more interactive!" - *Labria Gordon, AVID-12*

"In other classes I like when my teachers ask us about our day before we start our lesson because it really helps me share how I'm feeling ." - *Shamya Burnett, AVID-12*

"I think that the AVID banquets are beneficial to me. I think that the banquets are like a growing point for students but it's celebrated. This one event is like a flashback on everything throughout the year. Your struggles and hardships, your accomplishments and failures but it's all about what you overcame in the midst." - *Jacqueline Henderson, AVID-11*

"The most engaging strategies for me in AVID are team builders and philosophical chairs. They help our class work together and grow a bond." - *Wondrous Jenkins, AVID-11*

"Checking in with each student before class actually starts, whether it's a bell ringer or a question, it lifts the mood." - *Jada Johnson, AVID-11*

"Team Builders, because they help me collaborate with my other classmates, and most of my classmates to get a better understanding of what we are all thinking and feeling about a certain subject or problem." - *Marshawn Israel, AVID-11*

Social emotional activities are powerful and help build relationships with students. It has not been an easy year. Checking in with students about their well-being is crucial during this time. Whether it is just a quick "how are you" in the chat or a more formal activity, it is vital to incorporate SEL activities into our classes.

AVID has many resources for incorporating SEL activities and building relationships. Check out some below:

- [5 tips for supporting students socially and emotionally during distance learning](#)
- [30+ Ways to Integrate SEL during Distance Learning](#)
- [9 Relationship Building Activities for Virtual Learning](#)

College & Career Support

"What the students said:

"College prep projects and Khan Academy. I feel college prep projects are most important because I get a real taste of how college life is like outside of the glamorization of it, and KA is great because we get more practice for the SAT other than the PSAT." - *Zahriah Richmond, AVID-11*



"Personally, I feel the college visits that AVID orchestrates are the most beneficial strategies because they give me an opportunity to venture out and get a feel of how my college career might be." - *Jada Aminu, AVID-11*

"College field trips and college guest speakers have been really beneficial because they have helped me expand my choices of colleges I want to attend. They also have helped me understand more of how college might go for me and how I would have to plan that year out." - *Jessiah Estese, AVID-11*

