

## Note Taking Lesson 4 out of 4:

### Using Notes

English 2, LaGuardia Arts High School

Mr. Moore, [classjump.com/moore](http://classjump.com/moore)

*Revised for 2008-2009*

#### ***Data from Assessment #4:***

Accuracy 1- 2.8/ 5

Accuracy 2- 3.5/ 5

Accuracy 3- 3.8/ 5

Accuracy 4- 3.7/5

Focus 1- 4.1/ 5

Focus 2- 3.8/ 5

Focus 3- 3.9/ 5

Focus 4- 4/5

Organization 1- 2.4/ 5

Organization 2- 2.6/ 5

Organization 3- 4.2/ 5

Organization 4- 4.4/5

Deeper Meaning 1- 2.8/ 5

Deeper Meaning 2- 3.4/ 5

Deeper Meaning 3- 3.7/ 5

Deeper Meaning 4- 3.7/5

#### ***Analysis of Data:***

I observed that while “Organization” has improved .2 points on the rubric since the last lesson and “Focus” has improved .1 points, “Deeper Meaning” has not changed, and “Accuracy” has actually worsened. These results suggest to me a leveling off of students’ note taking abilities that is quite discouraging. They have improved dramatically, but they must continue to improve in order to compete in a world that puts heavy emphasis on a person’s ability to synthesize information with the aid of the employment of note taking strategies.

The data have led me to make the following decisions:

- Ideas from previous lessons must be reinforced to prevent the sort of backward movement seen with “Accuracy.”
- Students should be given more opportunities to use their notes in class to reinforce to them the value of note taking so that they will be more motivated to improve.
- Students’ use of notes must be improved so that they can actually improve their ability to “Focus” their responses. The “Focus” score has actually decreased slightly.
- Students’ ability to construct deeper meaning will be aided by their ability to review and use their notes more successfully.

## Lesson Plan #4: Use of Notes



**Aim:** How can I use my notes to study for tests and produce impressive work?

**Instructional Objective:**

- Students will understand the importance of using notes to take prepare for assessments.
- Students will understand the value of highlighting and recopying notes.

**Performance Objectives:**

- Students will take notes on a passage that will be read aloud and then underline key ideas.
- Students will take notes on class discussion.
- Students will underline or highlight key points in the notes.
- Students will write a two paragraph synthesis of their notes based on *Hero with a Thousand Faces*.

**Materials:** Joseph Campbell's *Hero with a Thousand Faces*

**Procedure:**

Share Out	5 minutes	We know that the most successful students take notes. What have we learned so far? What do you do when you want to review your notes?
Mini-lesson	5 minutes	Go through a page of your own notes, and underline the most important points. What are the most important points?
Writing exercise	25 minutes	Students are asked to use shorthand and Cornell Notes to record information on a passage that is read aloud to them from a text by Campbell. They are made aware that they will be answering the question, "According to his non-fiction text <i>The Hero with a Thousand Faces</i> , what does Joseph Campbell say happens within each of the five major steps of the Hero Quest?" This will increase the likelihood that their note taking will be focused. The value of reviewing notes will be emphasized, and students will underline or highlight key points for two minutes. They then write a two-paragraph response to this question.
Summary	5 min.	The instructor reviews the value of underlining, highlighting, or rewriting notes. Students are encouraged to do so in the future by the homework assignment.

**Homework:** Underline key points in your notes.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Remember to keep the goal in mind as you listen. In addition, pay attention to signals that may indicate that information is important. **Use the Cornell Notes System to organize your notes**, and use **shorthand** to record ideas efficiently.

Write your two paragraph response to the following question on the back of this sheet: "According to his non-fiction text *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, what does Joseph Campbell say happens within each of the five major steps of the Hero Quest?"

(List at least one topic or question in this column.)

(Take your notes in this column.)

(Write a one-sentence summary here after you have finished taking notes.)