

## **Note Taking**

board from the back of the room, you get an excellent view through the window to people driving in and out of the parking lot. You take a pen and paper out of your backpack and prop your feet up on the desk in front of you.

The instructor begins to lecture. Today is a review session for the exam scheduled for next

of voices and shuffling feet. You open your eyes and the lecture is over. You look at the paper in front of you. Not too many notes there, in fact, the pages are blank.

Can there possibly be a better way?

### **About college lectures**

The college lecture is usually a novel experience to new Augusta Technical College students. Although in high school the function of a lecture is usually to rehash material already covered in the textbook, college lectures most often provide an extension or enhancement of text material or introduce entirely new material.

Lectures provide rich learning opportunities that can help you in a number of ways: by reinforcing key concepts and principles, demonstrating application of concepts, providing different perspectives of text materials and expanding on course topics not covered in the textbook. They also give you the opportunity to take notes that will help you with later study and review.

To get the most out of lecture time, you need to make the most of your listening, seeing, thinking and problem-solving abilities, all the while filtering out any number of irritating distractions that may be present. As such, special skills are required for getting the most out of the time you spend in lecture. The lecture experience can be confusing and frustrating if you are ill-prepared.

### **Tips for a better lecture note taking strategy**

#### **Before the lecture begins**

Review. Looking over the course syllabus and notes from the previous class helps you determine the intended focus of the lecture and gives you some background for learning new material.

material discussed in class

## **During the lecture**

Avoid distractions. If you often find yourself daydreaming out of windows, for instance,

Take notes during class discussions or when questions are raised; important concepts are often clarified at these times.

### **After the lecture ends**

Review the lecture notes periodically. Research shows that you can forget up to 80% of what you learned in the first 24 hours. Reviewing the notes periodically keeps information fresh in your long-term memory and helps you integrate new information with old.

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