TAKING NOTES (THAT YOU'LL ACTUALLY USE)

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"YOUR BRAIN IS FOR HAVING <u>IDEAS</u>, NOT FOR HOLDING THEM"

-TIAGO FORTE
BUILDING A SECOND BRAIN

WHY DO I NEED GOOD NOTES?

- Note-taking is a habit and a skill – it takes practice, and you will likely go through a few phases of trial and error before you figure out a system that works for you

- Your Trinity Term Self will thank you if you spend the time figuring out a note-taking system that suits your learning style

WHAT MAKES GOOD NOTES?

- Good notes:

    - Can be easily navigated

    - Condense and summarise key ideas in a way that's easy for "later you" to digest

    - Use your own words as much as possible

NOTES FOR LEARNING

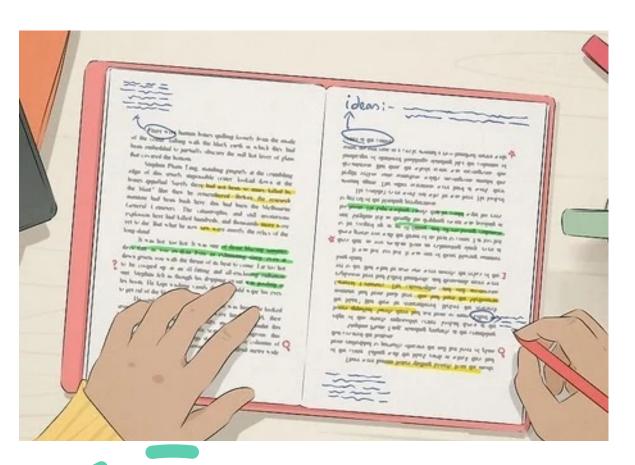- Different note-taking styles will suit different people

- Different note-taking styles will suits different phases of learning

- Your sense of what information is important will change as you learn

PAPER NOTES OR DIGITAL NOTES?

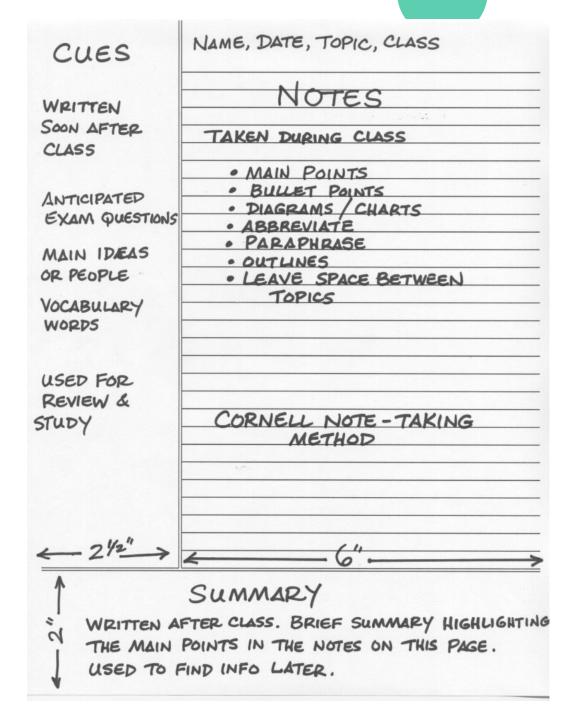Your mileage may vary…

TABBING BOOKS/ANNOTATING PDFS

- A first response

- How do you know what's important?

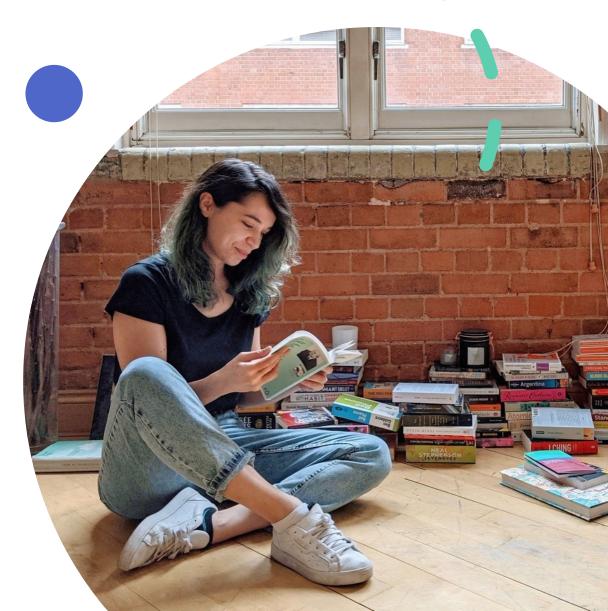- Do you need a second read to make sense of it?

THE CORNELL METHOD

- A way of making notes for easy review

- Works well for consolidating notes

- A second step for notes from PDFs?

DIGITAL NOTES: WHAT'S YOUR ARCHETYPE?

NOTE-TAKING ARCHETYPES

Anne-Laure Le Cunff

DIGITAL NOTES: WHAT'S YOUR ARCHETYPE?

ARCHITECT 📐	GARDENER 🌿	LIBRARIAN 📚
• Enjoys planning, designing processes and frameworks • Looking for a note-taking tool that allows them to structure their ideas and build systems	• Enjoys exploring and making connections between ideas • Looking for a note-taking tool that allows their ideas to grow, and creates organic connections between ideas	• Enjoys collecting and building a catalogue • Looking for a note-taking tool that allows them to retrieve their ideas quickly and easily

APPS FOR ARCHITECTS: NOTION

- Personal plan is free with an .ac.uk email address

- Great for organising notes via databases and structures

- Each "page" is very customisable
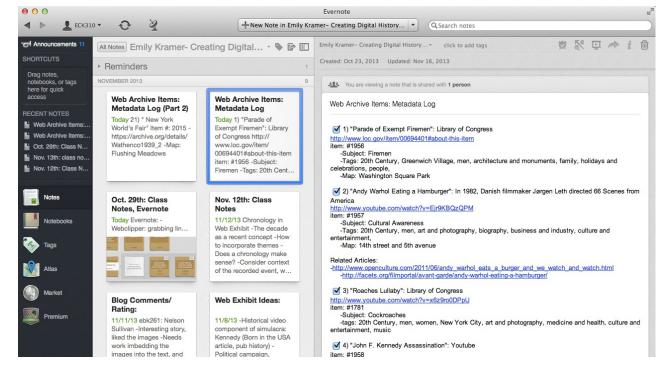
APPS FOR GARDENERS: ROAM/OBSIDIAN

- Roam: Pay monthly
  Obsidian: Free personal plan

- Great for "growing" ideas, creating organic links between notes – both manually and automatically

- Visualises gaps in your knowledge

APPS FOR LIBRARIANS: EVERNOTE/BEAR

- Both Evernote and Bear are free to start with, and have paid features

- Can organise by project, link notes via tagging, etc

- N.B. Bear is Apple OS only; not available on Windows/Linux/etc. Evernote has a student discount

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

- Whether you're using pen and paper or an app, the most important thing is finding a system that you <u>use</u>

- Notes are should <u>serve a purpose</u>: whether that's writing essays, revising, etc

- Your note-taking style may change in line with the kind of work you are doing…

THANK YOU

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