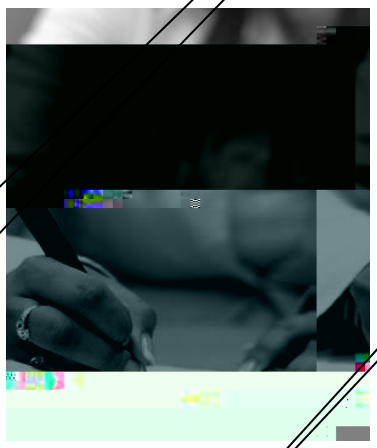
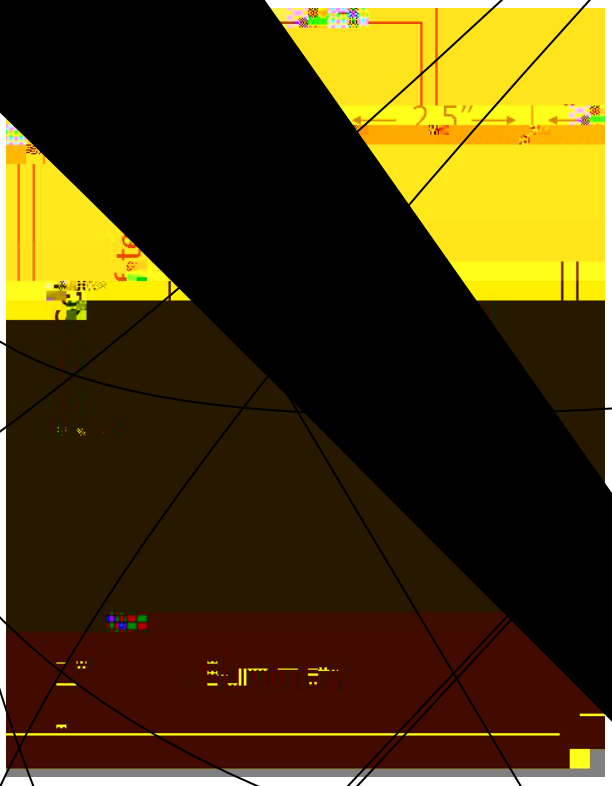
Note Taking: Cornell Method

A NOTE TAKING SYSTEM that is frequently recommended for university students is the Cornell method, which was developed by Dr. Walter Pauk of Cornell University. The Cornell method is an excellent study system for organizing and reviewing your lecture notes to increase your comprehension and critical thinking of course material, which typically results in improved test scores.



1: RECORD LECTURE NOTES

ur paper by drawing a vertical line about 2 ½ inches from the left edge of your
left column will become your review or self-test column, which you leave
2. The right, larger column is where you will write your lecture notes.
utline or paragraph format. Ensure that you include any information that
ys on the white board, such as diagrams and problems/solutions.
questions/answers, and other relevant, special comments that the
ring lecture.



Step 2: REVIEW YOUR NOTES and CREATE YOUR SELF-TEST COLUMN

Within a day of the class lecture, review your notes. Reviewing lecture material within 24-48 hours of the lecture and several times a week thereafter can increase your long-term recall of information from approximately 20% to over 70%. Reviewing consistently also eliminates the stressful practice of cramming before a test, re-learning information you have forgotten during the intervening weeks.

the review/self-test column, write key words or brief
ases to summarize main points of the lecture. Develop
rite potential test questions that you think your
r could ask on a test. Creating practice test
which is called self-testing, is a very powerful and
tudy strategy that significantly increases your
of the material as well as your long-term
formation.

Step 3: SUMMARIZE YOUR NOTES

Prepare a summary of the lecture in your own words. Summarizing information is a
of reviewing and critically thinking about what you have learned. Creating a summary helps you to identify what y
nd understand, as well as making very obvious the information for which you need additional clarification from profes
dy partners. Summaries can include diagrams and illustrations, equations, problems/solutions, as well as words.