

Grade 5 English Language Arts

Week of February 8 – February 12

Lesson 3+: Taking Notes

You will be taking notes as you read texts, watch videos, etc. By writing notes in your own words, you will be forced to think about the ideas that are presented in the text and how you can organize and explain them. The process of note-taking will help you to understand and to analyze what you have read.

What Not to Do

It is important to understand that effective note-taking means writing notes on what you have read **in your own words**. Copying what others have said is not note-taking and is only okay when you want to quote an author. It can be tempting, especially if your reading material is online, to copy and paste straight into a document. This is "easy" and doesn't require thinking - and your teacher really wants you to think. Also, copied text that ends up in your biography is plagiarism and is not okay. It is important to keep track of your sources. You'll learn more about this shortly.

The Importance of Your Questions

Watch (and read) this video to see how important it is to know WHAT your questions are when notetaking - both your big question and your small ones.



Trash and Treasure Note-Taking: <https://youtu.be/78YIrYqEmnQ>

Organizing for Note-Taking – Option 1

Remember your main purpose for note-taking is to learn and to prepare for writing your biography. You don't want to take too many notes, or not enough, and you want your notes to be clear.

Where should you record your notes:

Option One: Sticky Notes and "Story Board" -

This is a fabulous method of note-taking, especially for a biography because you can organize your sticky notes into a timeline to help you form your sequential text structure.



Organizing for Note-Taking – Options 2 & 3



Option Two: Computer Document - You can take point form notes on a computer document. This method works well as you can copy and paste notes when you are done to organize them in a timeline format. Then, it is easier to write using the sequential text structure when you are done.

Option Three: Notepaper - This works fine, too. After your notes are taken, you can number the notes you'd like to use in order of time to help you to write using the sequential text structure when you are done.



Recording Sources

On a separate page or document, keep a record of your information sources.

- **Always** keep a record of your information source.
 - **When referring to a book**, record the author's name, the date of publication, the title of the book, the relevant page number, the name of the publisher and the place of publication.
 - **When referring to a magazine or newspaper**, record the name of the author of the article, the date of publication, the name of the article, the name of the publication, the publication number and page number.
 - **When referring to internet sources**, record (at least) the full URL or web address and the date you accessed the information.

Why should we record or **cite** our sources?



Why We Cite Our Sources: <https://youtu.be/pG7M4xxrmbo>

You can keep track of your resources on bibme.org - it will help you put them together like a pro - books, magazines, and websites. It is a good idea to copy and paste each bibliography entry from bibme onto a document that you save on your computer. You can use this site without registering or setting up an account. After all, you don't want to put your personal information online!

Getting Started

Whether you are gathering notes on your computer, on paper, or on sticky notes, you need five pages (or sections if you are working on a computer) for your notes. Here are the sections:

- **EARLY LIFE**
- **LATER LIFE**
- **CONTRIBUTIONS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FUTURE**
- **QUOTABLE QUOTES**
- **SOURCE** - Your place to keep track of sources of information (books, websites, youtube movies, etc.) as you go along.

Once set up, you can begin to gather your point form notes!

Below is the kind of information for each section. You will not be able to answer ALL the questions below. They are just guidelines.

EARLY LIFE

- What is your person's first and last name-nicknames/pseudonyms?
- What is their date of birth and death?
- What was your person like when they were young?
- What do you know about their family members and important early experiences which contributed to their personality or future? Who influenced this person's life and choices?
- What schools did your person attend in their life? Where are the schools located? Any interesting information on their school behavior or grades? Was there a particularly influential teacher?
- What obstacles did this person have to overcome? How did s/he overcome them?

LATER LIFE

- When they were an adult, what jobs did they hold? Why did this person enter the field they did? Did they receive any awards or recognition in their lifetime?

- If your person has died: When and where did they die? How did they die?

CONTRIBUTIONS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FUTURE

- How did their death affect society or other individuals?
- If your person is still alive: What new projects are they working on?
- What are they doing today?
- What opinions do others have about this person?
- What do you know about their hopes for the future?

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- Quotable quotes can really add to your content and message. If you find a quotable quote by your person or about your person, record it. Just keep track of "who said it".

And Go!

What are you waiting for? You are ready to get started. Set up your pages and start your note-taking. When you think you have your notes complete, you can send a copy of your notes (or take digital pictures if they are on sticky notes or paper - you don't want to send them in as you will need them), come back to the next online lesson where you will learn about organizing notes and putting your ideas together.