

1. Mark your confusion.
2. Show evidence of a close reading.
3. Write a 1+ page reflection.

**Attention Students: Put Your Laptops Away**  
Source: NPR.com, April 17, 2016

As laptops become smaller and more ubiquitous, and with the advent of tablets, the idea of taking notes by hand just seems old-fashioned to many students today. Typing your notes is faster — which comes in handy when there's a lot of information to take down. But it turns out there are still advantages to doing things the old-fashioned way.

For one thing, research shows that laptops and tablets have a tendency to be distracting — it's so easy to click over to Facebook in that dull lecture. And a study has shown that the fact that you have to be slower when you take notes by hand is what makes it more useful in the long run. interesting... more emphasis should be placed on usefulness

In the study published in Psychological Science, Pam A. Mueller of Princeton University and Daniel M. Oppenheimer of the University of California, Los Angeles sought to test how note-taking by hand or by computer affects learning.

"When people type their notes, they have this tendency to try to take verbatim notes and write down as much of the lecture as they can," Mueller tells NPR's Rachel Martin. "The students who were taking longhand notes in our studies were forced to be more selective — because you can't write as fast as you can type. And that extra processing of the material that they were doing benefited them."

Mueller and Oppenheimer cited that note-taking can be categorized two ways: generative and nongenerative. Generative note-taking pertains to "summarizing, paraphrasing, concept mapping," while nongenerative note-taking involves copying something verbatim.

And there are two hypotheses to why note-taking is beneficial in the first place. The first idea is called the encoding hypothesis, which says that when a person is taking notes, "the processing that occurs" will improve "learning and retention." The second, called the external-storage hypothesis, is that you learn by being able to look back at your notes, or even the notes of other people. [this is the best way for me to study.]

Because people can type faster than they write, using a laptop will make people more likely to try to transcribe everything they're hearing. So on the one hand, Mueller and Oppenheimer were faced with the question of whether the benefits of being able to look at your more complete, transcribed notes on a laptop outweigh the drawbacks of not processing that information. On the other hand, when writing longhand, you process the information better but have less to look back at.

For their first study, they took university students (the standard guinea pig of psychology) and showed them TED talks about various topics. Afterward, they found that the students who used laptops typed significantly more words than those who took notes by hand. When testing how well the students remembered information, the researchers found a key point of divergence in the type of question. For questions that asked students to simply remember facts, like dates, both groups did equally well. But for "conceptual-application" questions, such as, "How do

seems more important than "recall."

old-fashioned may be, but necessary

existing everywhere / context? - arrival / emergence

faster to those w/ keyboard skills

quicker, but can be a distraction

interesting... more emphasis should be placed on usefulness

paraphrasing material shows higher comprehension and retention of info.

who knew I could affect learning?

longhand verbatim

generative nongenerative

wouldn't start w/ and

a types of note-taking

\* Benefits of note-taking

we don't learn as much as we would if it was your own words

Rebuttal/

what are TED talks?

separatism

Japan and Sweden differ in their approaches to equality within their societies?" the laptop users did "significantly worse."

The same thing happened in the second study, even when they specifically told students using laptops to try to avoid writing things down verbatim. "Even when we told people they shouldn't be taking these verbatim notes, they were not able to overcome that instinct," Mueller says. The more words the students copied verbatim, the worse they performed on recall tests.

And to test the external-storage hypothesis, for the third study they gave students the opportunity to review their notes in between the lecture and test. The thinking is, if students have time to study their notes from their laptops, the fact that they typed more extensive notes than their longhand-writing peers could possibly help them perform better.

But the students taking notes by hand still performed better. "This is suggestive evidence that longhand notes may have superior external storage as well as superior encoding functions," Mueller and Oppenheimer write.

Do studies like these mean wise college students will start migrating back to notebooks?

"I think it is a hard sell to get people to go back to pen and paper," Mueller says. "But they are developing lots of technologies now, like Livescribe and various stylus and tablet technologies that are getting better and better. And I think that will be sort of an easier sell to college students and people of that generation."

**Possible Response Questions:**

- Do you prefer to write by hand, or to use a computer? Explain.
- How about reading? Do you prefer a physical book? Or a digital book? Explain.
- Discuss a "move" made by the writer in this piece that you think is good/interesting. Explain.
- Pick a passage from the article and respond to it.

Why were these countries chosen to study?

You would think this would help you do better

EVIDENCE

Great Question

is it for sts to listen, type + paraphrase accurately  
think  
This may or imply that the theory is poorer

wonder what the is...?

## Article of the Week: Notes about Reflections

- **Length:** 2 paragraphs, with AT LEAST 4 complete sentences in each paragraph is the required and expected length for each response.
- **Content:** Your opinion (thoughts and feelings) about the information presented in the article should be the main focus of your reflection.
- **Textual Evidence:** Refer to some (2-3) statements/information presented in the article. When you do, enclose those borrowed words in quotation marks.

**Example:** In the article, "What Happens to Your Brain When You Give Up Sugar," Jordan Lewis states that, "Not all foods are equally rewarding..."

- Open your reflection with a direct response to the writing prompt you chose.

**Example:**

Prompt: Comment on your relationship with sugar.

Opening Response: I happen to have a "love-love" relationship with sugar. I love it, and it loves me back...probably too much though.

- Read over your response for spelling and grammatical errors. Make sure words are spelled correctly, especially the more simple words. All sentences should be complete thoughts, and need to be punctuated properly; avoid run-ons and fragments.

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9.19.2017

Article of the Week: "Attention Students: Put Your Laptops Away" REFLECTION

Reflection Question 2: How about reading? Do you prefer a physical book? Or a digital book? Explain.

The article, "Attention Students: Put Your Laptops Away" focuses on the difference between new technology advances like laptops, and the old school method of handwriting or reading information written by hand. The article indicates that **"taking notes by hand just seems old-fashioned to many students today."** I guess you can just call me "old school," because I love to read hard copies of books. I have attempted to read items electronically, even simple articles, but always feel like I can never remember what I've read. When I read a hard copy of a book, I write notes, highlight, and have more of an opportunity to have an "experience" with the book.

By "experience with the book," I mean that I'm able to note the epiphanies and new knowledge that I've gained from reading the book. If you were to pick up a book that I've already read and loved, you would be able to tell how much I loved it by how many notes and highlights you see. Based on the information provided in the article, I am a supporter of the **"encoding hypothesis."** This **"encoding hypothesis says that when a person is taking notes, "the processing that occurs" will improve "learning and retention."** Isn't that the point of reading...to remember and learn something from what you've read? Otherwise, all you're doing is wasting time if you can't get the most from what you've read.

Lastly, although I love books in hard copy form, I believe the sad reality is that electronic books and learning will only increase with time. I fear that over time, libraries will close down, and we will lose the beauty that comes with reading a book with real pages. There are times when I pick up a book from my bookshelf and just fan through the pages to reread the notes I've taken, and I'm still able to have "my moment" with the book I may have read years and years ago. This is not likely to happen with an electronic book, and I therefore wouldn't want to trade my hard copies for the world.