

Promising Practices: Creative Instruction

Visual Note-Taking



What is it?

Visual note-taking (or “doodle notes”) can be structured by the teacher or left open for students to draw what they hear and focus on during the direct instruction/lecture. Using visual note-taking is one-way teachers can see what students understand from the lesson.

About

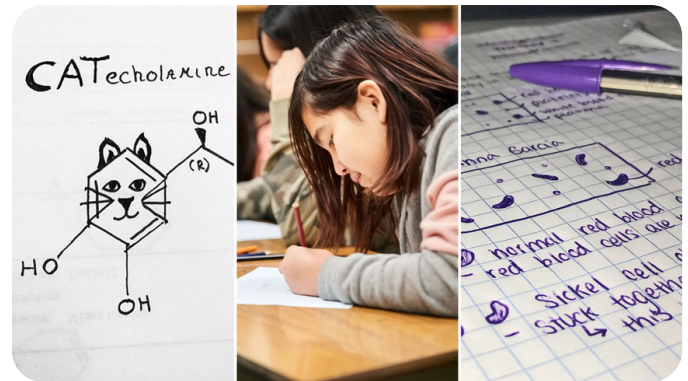


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Submitted by:

April Lesher
Mesquite High School
Gilbert Public Schools

Impact?

- Academic Engagement
- Cognitive Engagement:
- Motivation
- Study Skills



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Sample



Grade Level

6-12

Additional Resources



[Edutopia Article](#)

How to do it:

1

Rethink Your Paper: Encourage students to play with spacing, vary text sizes, and add symbols anywhere on the page “to create a hierarchy of information that might be harder to capture in linear text.”

2

Start With a Little Practice: Encourage students to start off scribbling which gets the creative juices flowing and creates a comfortable setting for the introduction of the concept.

3

Skip the Grading: Attaching a grade to visual note-taking might inhibit the student as they struggle to make sense of complex material, make them feel self-conscious, or simply be so subjective as to be meaningless—so provide feedback rather than a grade.

4

Join In: Modeling visual note-taking techniques for your students can be a great way to inspire them to try something new.

Credit: How—and Why—to Introduce Visual Note-Taking to Your Students, Paige Tutt, 2021



Office of the Maricopa County
School Superintendent
Steve Watson
schoolsup.org/promising-practices