The Importance of Note Taking

In “ The Transition to College Writing,” a book by Keith Hjortshoj, many details are provided on the note taking importance and the different strategies needed when taking notes on a lecture. Reading this brings a deeper understanding to why and how the note taking strategies are altered. A students note taking should be altered by three main things: the subject being studied and taught, the tasks at hand, and the speaker presenting the information.

First, a student’s note taking strategies need to be altered for different subjects in many ways;for instance, math notes wouldn't be the same as English or sociology class notes. For example, in my math class I write down all of the problems my professor writes on the board and how to solve them, but when I get to my sociology class I write down some of my professors statements and vocab. For a math class it is important to note the many examples and numbers, less of the sentences said and words spoken, where as in most other classes the focus of notes is the words spoken and the vocab throughout.

Second, based on the different tasks at hand, a student’s note taking strategies should also change. During a lecture, if a student knows for a fact that they are going to use the information being taught for an upcoming assignment or quiz they are going to take much more detailed and thorough notes from that lecture. Taking more detailed notes will allow them to be able to go back and look through these notes when needed and provide them with much easier study material. Some professors also give students a grade on their note taking , counting it as participation or just a note taking grade in general. With students knowing about the fact of them receiving a grade for their notes, it gives them greater initiative to use a better note taking strategy in order to receive a higher grade rather than just writing down and taking notes on whatever they feel like throughout the lecture.

Lastely, depending on the speaker giving the lecture, the note taking strategies are most likely going to change. Some professors make their lessons more interactive which inturn causes students to be more involved, allowing them to retain the information without taking as many notes. Other professors keep it to strictly powerpoints where they read off the definitions and information needed throughout the course. This type of speaker and class would need thorough and detailed notes, retaining every piece of the information gone over.

According to the book , “The Transition to College Writing,” a student’s note taking strategies will alter widely for a number of different reasons. The three main reasons include things such as the subject being taught, the different tasks at hand, and the speaker giving your lecture.Knowing this, some college students may choose to focus on their note taking strategies and how to alter them to fit their classes and college experience.