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The most important skill you will need to learn in college is how to take notes. You will need to know when to write something down and when not to write something down. The one thing you will not want to do is try to write every single thing down because then you won’t process all the information you need to take in. The main points are how I take different notes for different subjects, tasks, and speakers.

The first point is on how I take notes in my different subjects. In this chapter I learned about stenography, which I used to do a lot. In simple words stenography is basically trying to write down everything the professor says. In my Understanding Media course, my professor has lecture days and film days. While I’m taking notes for the lecture days, I tend to write down the things that she says instead of trying to write down everything on the slideshows. It usually helps me focus on what she wants me to know rather than just copying down a bunch of stuff that doesn’t make sense to me. We also have assigned readings for the lecture days, so we can be more interactive in class. It says in the chapter to do the assigned readings beforehand, so I have some sort of background knowledge for the next class. This helps a lot when I get to class because when the teacher brings up something, I’ll know exactly what she’s referring to. On the other hand, my math class is set up a bit different. My math teacher likes to give examples with everything he teaches, so it makes things a bit difficult to wrap my head around. One of the strategies in the chapter is to “fill in details and perspectives shortly after the lecture.” With math I usually forget things really fast, I know to write some examples down and come back to them later to try and figure them out. It’s also very useful for when I have to get the homework done and I need to look back at some sample problems.

My second point is about how I would take notes when I have a certain task I’m looking forward to, like if a test or quiz is coming up. Particularly with quizzes I’ll usually go to my professor and ask them any types of questions I have based on what we are learning. While the professor is answering any of my questions, I’ll write down what the answers are and what the professor is mainly getting at. It’s always good to write down key points because they can help me when it’s quiz or test day. As for my Understanding Media course, I’ll go to my professor and she’ll tell me all the key points to pay attention to while I’m studying for her class. The most important thing to me is the review days. These are the days where I might even bring my recorder to class to make sure I don’t miss any key points. This way when I do miss something or even if I don’t understand something, I can go back to the recording and listen to what the professor is saying about that specific topic.

Lastly, my last point would be on how my different professors speak and basically how they explain what they are teaching. As for my math course, my professor is all over the place when he is trying to explain something to the class. For that reason, I typically listen to how he is about to explain his next lecture. Most of the time he just gives a lot of examples for what he is trying to teach. So, with knowing the structure of the lecture I will take notes on just the examples and maybe a few points from the slideshows. It gives me a better understanding of what he is trying to teach. The same goes for my Understanding Media class, my professor tends to give examples rather than just explaining the whole point. As for her class though, she teaches slower than my math teacher does, so I get to process the information a little better.

In conclusion, I learned that note taking is a skill I will definitely need to know while in college. As for my different professors they all have a different way of teaching, which made me have to learn how to take notes with the different subjects, tasks, and speakers.