
Annotated Notetaking: How To

Annotated notetaking is an active learning strategy where you take notes and add your own thoughts, questions, and summaries alongside key information. This helps you process, remember, and apply what you learn.

How to do it:

1. **Take Organized Notes:** Write down key ideas, concepts, and facts in your own words. Use headings, bullet points, or diagrams if helpful.
2. **Add Annotations:** In the margins or between lines, jot down:
 - Questions you have
 - Connections to other topics or real-life examples
 - Definitions of tricky words or concepts
 - Summaries of complex ideas in plain language
3. **Highlight or Color-Code:** Use color or symbols to mark:
 - Important points
 - Areas to review
 - Things you don't understand yet
4. **Review & Reflect:** After class or reading, revisit your notes and annotations to reinforce learning and fill in any gaps.

The goal is to make your notes interactive not just a record of information, but a tool for deeper understanding.

Hard Copy Text Example

Tone - nostalgic

The Road Not Taken

BY ROBERT FROST

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
 And sorry I could not travel both
 And be one traveler, long I stood
 And looked down one as far as I could
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
 And having perhaps the better claim,
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
 Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
 In leaves no step had trodden black.
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
 I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
 I took the one less traveled by,
 And that has made all the difference.

Why not?

Could be autumn?

Shows they take time to think

Were they the same then?

So true!

Of regret? Or in contentment?

just a matter of perspective?

Literal meaning:
 They are standing at a fork in the road, and must choose one of the paths without knowing what lies down either of them.

Metaphorical:
 It's like having to make a choice at different stages in life - we can't know where they will lead... taking the road less travelled could be more rewarding?

Regret?

Hum... Can't know what lies ahead

Not many people have gone down this road...

Do we get to revisit the choices we didn't make?

Digital Text Example

Separation anxiety disorder: Separation anxiety is often thought of as something that only children deal with; however, adults can also be diagnosed with separation anxiety disorder. People who have separation anxiety disorder have fears about being parted from people to whom they are attached. They often worry that some sort of harm or something untoward will happen to their attachment figures while they are separated. This fear leads them to avoid being separated from their attachment figures and to avoid being alone. People with separation anxiety may have nightmares about being separated from attachment figures or experience physical symptoms when separation occurs or is anticipated.

They are afraid of someone leaving them or afraid of being alone. Are these two different things or are they related?

Meaning of word?

How do they do this?

Give examples of the kinds of symptoms.

Thought of by whom? What is this based on?

What is this based on? Do people fear harm coming to them or their loved ones based on experience or paranoia? Is there correlation here?

How do they do this?

Explore if there a difference between anticipated separation anxiety and actual separation anxiety.

References:

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