Keeping Interactive Notebooks in Science

The Left Side

The left page demonstrates your understanding of the information from the right side of the page. You work with the input and interact with the information in creative, unique, and individual ways. The left side incorporates and reflects how you learn science as well as what you learn in science.

What goes on the left side?

Output goes on the left side. These are products that demonstrate understanding of the topic or content. Some examples of output include the following:

- Brainstorming
- Concept maps
- Riddles
- Illustrations
- Cartoons
- Poetry and songs
- Metaphors and analogies
- Venn diagrams
- Data and graphs you generate
- Analysis writing
- Reflection writing
- Quickwrites
- Four-square analogies
- Mnemonics
- Flowcharts
- Graphic organizers
- Writing prompts
- Other creative avenues for processing information

Things to Know About Left Sides

- Left sides have even-numbered pages. Every left-side page gets used and relates to a right side.
- Always use color (minimum of three per page) for learning. It helps the brain learn and organize information.
- Quizzes, tests, and other summative assessments are left-side items.
- Homework problems are left-side items (but they don’t take the place of processing your notes!).

12. Make an illustration explaining the topic.

11. Create a graph.

10. Create a Venn diagram to compare/contrast.

9. Write and solve problems using the information.

8. Create an analogy and an illustration.

7. Write a letter about the topic to your grandmother.

6. Write four “What if” questions about the topic.

1. Write the lyrics for a song.

2. Create a bookmark for this topic.

3. Write a haiku poem.

4. Create vocabulary cards for 5 most essential terms.

5. Paraphrase information in one sentence.
Keeping Interactive Notebooks in Science

The Right Side

Interactive notebooks will be used in class daily to help you learn and remember important science concepts. The right-side notebook page contains the information you put into the notebook and the information you need to learn—the INPUT.

What goes on the right side?

INPUT goes on the right side. Input is all the information that you are supposed to learn. Some examples of input include the following:

- Notes from a lecture or guest speaker
- Text or other source
- Vocabulary words
- Video and film notes
- Procedures
- Readings
- Questions and answers
- Sample problems

The Keys to Fantastic Right Sides

- Right sides have ODD numbered pages. Always start the page with the date and title at the top of the page.
- The right page is for writing down information you are given in class. Use Cornell notes for lecture, discussion, text, sample problems, etc. Write up your study questions ASAP.
- Write legibly. Use highlighting and color to make important information stand out.
- Write summaries at the bottom of each page of notes to reduce the amount of information you have to study.

Costa’s Levels of Thinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Apply</th>
<th>Evaluate</th>
<th>Hypothesize</th>
<th>Imagine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
<td></td>
<td>Predict</td>
<td>Speculate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Analyze</td>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sequence</td>
<td>Synthesize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Define</td>
<td>Describe</td>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
<td>Observe</td>
<td>Recite</td>
<td>Scan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Left Page Assignment Choices

ALL LEFT PAGES MUST HAVE CWP
(.Color With Purpose)

Highlight the Top 3 Left Page Assignments You Would Like to Try This Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>Draw Pictures. Which Demonstrate The Meaning Of The Words In The Assignment. The Word Itself Must Appear In The Picture.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Create A Chapter Test With A 10 Question Matching Section &amp; 4 Multiple Choice Items.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Write A List Of 10 Reasons Why It Is Important To Learn The Information In This Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Using This Chapter's New Vocabulary Words As Search Prompts, Find 3 Websites, Which Provide More Info. Write 2 Facts You Learned From Visiting Each Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>In 75 Words Or More, Describe An Invention, Which Would Allow Scientists To Instantly Learn More About The Subject In The Assigned Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Choose The Most Important Concept In The Assigned Pages &amp; Write An Explanation In 75 Words Or Less Which Would Explain The Concept To A Young Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Choose A Concept From The Assigned Pages &amp; Then Describe How This Applies To A &quot;Real Life&quot; Situation. Make A Comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Make A Set Of Flashcards With At Least 8 Words From The Assigned Pages. Write The Word On The Top Of The Flashcard. Write The Def. &amp; Picture Demonstrating The Meaning Underneath On Your Notebook Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Create A Crossword Puzzle Using At Least 10 Vocabulary Words From This Chapter <a href="http://www.puzzlemaker.com">www.puzzlemaker.com</a> (Remember, you are just making the puzzle...don't fill it in until the day before the notebook check or exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>Create a Concept Map with One Key Vocabulary Word/Concept in the Center, You must use at least 5 words or concepts to complete the Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#11</td>
<td>Write A Letter To A Friend Explaining What You Learned From The Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#12</td>
<td>Design A Book Or Magazine Cover For The Subject We Are Covering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#13</td>
<td>Create An Advertisement Which Might Appear In A Scientific Magazine Which Tries To Convince People To Learn More About What We Are Studying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#14</td>
<td>Create a Word Search. However, Instead of Word Clues You Must Use Definitions at the bottom and then find the Word in the Puzzle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# How to Take Cornell Notes

**Topic:** [Blank]  
**Date:** [Blank]

## Questions Column
For: Main Ideas, Keywords, Pictures And/Or Questions

### How do you prepare to take Cornell Notes?

### How do I take Cornell Notes in class or while reading?

### What do I do after taking the notes?

### How do I use my Cornell Notes to study?

## Notes Column

1) **Formatting Guidelines**
   - **Heading**
   - **Title**
   - Divide paper vertically into two sides by folding the paper lengthwise
   - 1/3 paper-width from the left margin
   - Outline could include levels organized using...
     - bullets
     - numbers
     - letters

2) **The Notes Column**
   - Read in chunks, then take notes
   - Write notes on right side of paper
   - Paraphrase to capture content (meaning) but simplify writing
   - Get most important ideas rather than all the little details
   - Use symbols (arrows →, circles ○, underlines, etc.)
   - Highlight using different colors for: Important info, headings, & vocabulary
   - Include graphics (diagrams, charts) when relevant
   - Skip lines between ideas

3) **The Recall Column**
   - Within 24 hours, develop questions to study, or keywords and key-phrases that identify the main ideas
   - Write these in left column

4) **Summary**
   - Write a short paragraph (apx. 4 sentences) that discusses the main ideas and content of your notes
   - Do not merely restate the details of the notes
   - Purpose is to reprocess the information, see the connections

5) **Use Cornell Notes to Study**
   - Cover right side of notes
   - Pick a question, try to answer it, or
   - Try to say as many details as you recall from the keywords and phrases
   - Use RCRC (Read, Cover, Recite, Check) Strategy
   - Repeat until you know answers or details
   - Review notes before taking next set of notes to better recognize developing or continuing ideas

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Down here write one of the following: summary of what you read/lecture; the five most important points of the article/chapter/lecture; questions you still need to answer.