Creating note cards requires you to select and store information in neural networks through multiple modalities (seeing, saying, and writing), so storage is much more powerful than simply looking at the same information in the text or in your notes. These strong connections make retrieval much easier, especially during testing situations.

The note card examples below are arranged from simple to complex using four different levels of learning. Your ability to accurately predict not only the content but also the level of learning at which you will be expected to perform dictates the complexity and sophistication of the cards you produce. You may even choose to use different colors of cards or ink to organize the information by topics.

**Remember: Identification note card**

**Person, event, circumstance**

**Nelson R. Mandela**

- Born: July 18, 1918, near Limpopo
- Aspired to become a lawyer
- Joined African Nat’l Congress 1942
- Formed ANC youth wing 1944
- Apartheid created 1948 when Nat’l Party won elections
- ANC campaign—Defiance of Unjust Laws 1952
- Nat’l Party outlawed ANC 1960
- Sentenced to life in prison 1961
- Freed from prison Feb. 11, 1990
- Won Nobel Peace Prize 1993
- Elected president of S. Africa on April 27, 1994

**Data and their importance**

**Remember: Simple diagram note card**

**Name of diagram**

**Arthropod body plan**

**Labeled diagram**

**Segmented body plan, exoskeleton, jointed appendages**
**Remember: Formula note card**

*Name of formula/theorem*

Pythagorean theorem

*Formula and definition*

\[ a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \]

The sum of the squares of the sides (legs) of a right triangle is equal to the square of the hypotenuse.

**Understand: Concept note card**

*Concept*

Utilitarianism

*Parts, components*

- Theory of ethics—idea that the ultimate goal of any moral action is the achievement of the greatest good for the greatest number
- Should be the aim of all legislation
- Opposed to idea that one person’s conscience determines good/evil since good/evil aren’t determined by an individual alone
- Outlined by Wm. Paley in Principles of moral and political philosophy (1785) & by Jeremy Bentham in Introduction to the principles of morals and legislation (1789)

**Understand: Example note card**

*(declarative knowledge)*

*Data*

Proportional representation

*Definition and example*

Electoral system meant to produce a legislative body where # of seats a party holds is proportional to # of votes received in most recent election

- 1st used in Denmark in 1855
- Used in early/mid 20th century in several US cities (NY & Cincinnati) that hoped to prevent machine politics & ensure minority representation
- Now used in many European democracies
Understand: Example note card (procedural knowledge)

Procedure

Do Loop
(Process for advancing numerical value)

Steps of the procedure

1. Do While (condition is true)
2. (process statements)
3. Loop

Note: Avoid infinite loops
Remember indents

Ex. Prints 5 0–9
Dim n as integer
n = 0
Do while n < 10
picBox Print n
n = n + 1
Loop

Application: Practicing a problem note card

Problem

Completing the Square
Problem:
\[ x^2 + 4x + 3 = 0 \]

Solution

1. Subtract 3 from both sides,
   \[ x^2 + 4x = -3 \]
2. Divide the coefficient of \( x \) by 2 and to both sides.
   \[ x^2 + 4x + \left( \frac{4}{2} \right)^2 = -3 + \left( \frac{4}{2} \right)^2 \]
3. Factor
   \[ (x + 2)^2 = 1 \text{ A perfect square} \]

Analyze: Predict essay test question note card

Hypothesized essay question

What ways do American literature consist of a dialog between Puritanism and Transcendentalism?

Main points

1. The way they see the relationship between the individual and the community
2. How they relate to nature
3. The role and definition of religion in each school
4. The concept of America in each school
5. The difference between each school’s concept of Fate
Why invest the time to make note cards?

- Identifying important information for note cards improves your ability to predict test questions.

- As you make note cards, the material becomes fixed in your memory. Each time you review your note cards, the material is repeatedly refreshed.

- Note cards are portable and convenient to review during breaks.

- The ability to shuffle or rearrange note cards allows you to review the least known information more frequently.

- Flipping your stack of note cards over and recalling the more detailed information on the opposite side prepares you for short answer (recall) test questions as well as multiple choice/true-false/matching (recognition) test questions.

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