

CORNELL NOTES FOR LECTURE CLASSES

Using Cornell Notes is a very effective way to record and review information from class. Implement this method when your professor lectures but does not provide a PowerPoint or an outline to guide you in comprehending material in class.

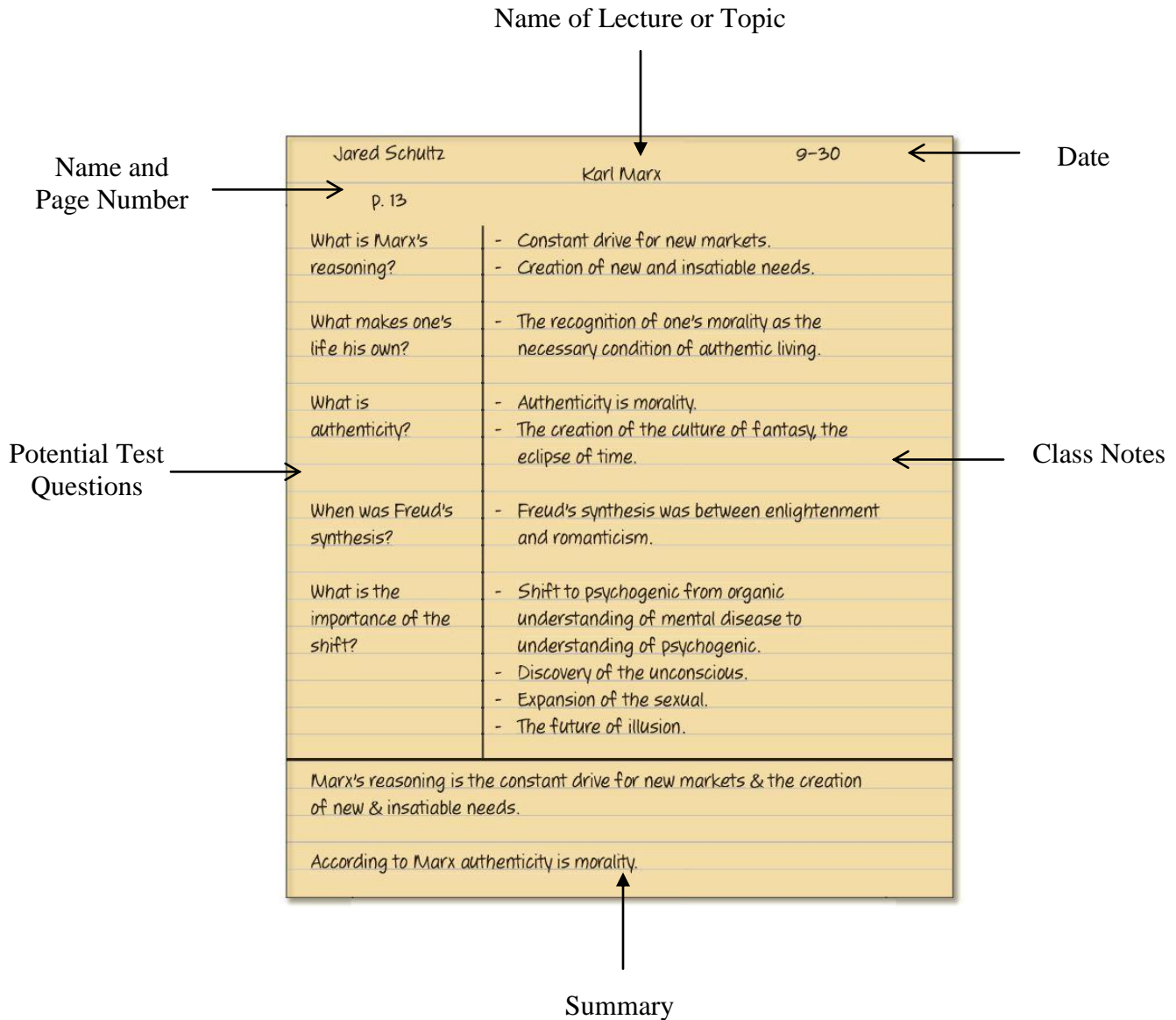
HOW TO USE CORNELL NOTES

1. Write the topic of the lecture on the top of the page. Also include your name, the date, and relevant page numbers at the top on the right- or left-hand side.
2. Divide your paper into two sections by drawing a line vertically down the page. Draw your dividing line so that approximately 1/3 of the left side of your page is blank.
3. Leave a section at the bottom of the page (about 1 to 1/2 inch).
4. Take notes in class as usual, remembering not to intrude on the blank section on the left side of the page.
5. Sometime after class (the sooner, the better), go back through your notes to predict possible test questions, summarize, and clarify any terms or ideas. Put these on the blank left side of your page.

Questions should closely approximate those that you are likely to see on a test! This method will be most beneficial if you know what **types** of tests will be given in each of your classes. Does your instructor give essay tests or multiple choice/objective exams? Does your instructor emphasize general concepts or concentrate on details and facts? In order for your predicted questions to be an effective study aid, you should approximate, as closely as possible, the types of questions you are likely to see on a test. (Easy questions with "snap" answers are a waste of your valuable study time.)

6. Write a summary of your notes at the bottom of the page.
7. When it comes time to study for your exam, cover up the part of your page that has your in-class notes, and use the other part as a self-test or study guide. If you have done your work well, you should be prepared for almost anything that comes your way.

EXAMPLE OF CORNELL NOTES



Sources: Sellers, D., Dochen, C. W., & Hodges, R. (2015). *Academic transformation: The road to college success* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson Education.

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