

Column Notes

Wisconsin State Standards

Reading:
Informational Texts
– Integration of
Knowledge and
Ideas

Grade Level
6-12

Purpose
Use with students
to support
comprehension:
integrate ideas
across and between
texts

When to Use
During Reading
After Reading

Grouping
Whole Group
Small Group
Partners
Individuals

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

COLUMN NOTES is a graphic organizer that allows students to analyze and synthesize information from one or more sources. Column notes provide enough structure for students to record important information but enough flexibility so students can use them to take notes on information from any type of text in any format. Educators should choose the format for the column notes that is most appropriate for the needs of their classroom and should check students' notes and provide feedback to students regularly. Students can use words and/or illustrations to record their ideas. Students synthesize the main idea of the notes by writing a one-sentence summary at the end of the notes. Column notes is used during and after reading, listening to, or viewing texts.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- Identify the format for the column notes that is most appropriate for the task and the classroom.
- Once you decide on the format, establish expectations:
 1. When will students use the column notes?
 2. What do exemplar column notes look like?
 3. When will you view the column notes and provide students feedback?
- Establish the purpose of the column notes.
- Either model for the students how to set up the column notes or provide students with the column notes: Ideas from the Text-Reaction Notes, Main Idea-Detail Notes, Opinion-Proof Notes, Hypothesis-Proof Notes, Problem-Solution Notes, Process Notes, and Multiple Sources Notes; scaffold as needed.
- Model how to complete the column notes; scaffold as needed.
 - Write the purpose for reading, viewing, or listening at the top of the page.
 - Divide the paper into columns and label the columns.
 - Record information from the texts in the appropriate columns.
 - Synthesize the main idea of the notes by writing a one-sentence summary at the end of the notes.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- Teacher observation
- Conferring
- Graphic organizer post-reading as assessment

RESEARCH

- Dexter, D. D., & Hughes, C. (2011). Graphic organizers and students with learning disabilities: A meta-analysis. *Learning Disability Quarterly*, 34, 51-72.
- Kim, A., Vaughn, S., Wanzek, J., & Wei, S. (2008). Graphic organizers and their effects on the reading comprehension of students with LD: A synthesis of research. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 37(2), 105-118.
- Little, D. C., & Box, J. A. (2011). The use of a specific schema theory strategy-semantic mapping to facilitate vocabulary development and comprehension for at-risk reader. *Reading Improvement*, 48(1), 24-31.

Column Notes

Set up the column notes: Ideas from the Text-Reaction Notes, Main Idea-Detail Notes, Opinion-Proof Notes, Hypothesis-Proof Notes, Problem-Solution Notes, Process Notes, and Multiple Sources Notes; Divide the paper into columns and label the columns. Write the purpose for reading, viewing, or listening at the top of the page. Record information from the texts in the appropriate columns. Synthesize the main idea of the notes by writing a one-sentence summary at the end of the notes.

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:	
Ideas from the Text (Cite text and page numbers)	Reaction
Summary:	

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:	
Main Idea (Cite text and page numbers)	Supporting Details
Summary:	

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:

Opinion
(Isolate statements of
opinion, bias or limited point
of view)

Proof

Summary:

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:

Hypothesis
(Identify predictions or
theories)

Proof (Evaluate the evidence offered for each proof)

Summary:

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:

Problem
(Identify the nature, causes,
and effects of a problem)

Solution

Summary:

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:

Process (Describe a process)	Steps (Outline the specific steps)

Summary:

Purpose for reading/viewing/listening:

Main Idea	Source 1 (Cite text and page number)	Source 2 (Cite text and page number)	Conclusions Record your own opinions, observations, thoughts, and experiences)

Summary: