Cornell (Two-Column) Notes

Unit: Introduction

MA Curriculum Frameworks (2016): N/A

AP® Physics 2 Learning Objectives: N/A

Mastery Objective(s): (Students will be able to…)

- Use the Cornell note-taking system to take effective notes, or add to existing notes.

Success Criteria:

- Notes are in two columns with appropriate main ideas on the left and details on the right.
- Bottom section includes summary and/or other important points.

Language Objectives:

- Understand and describe how Cornell notes are different from other forms of note-taking.

Tier 2 Vocabulary: N/A

Notes:

The Cornell note-taking system was developed in the 1950s at Cornell University. Besides being a useful system for note-taking in general, it is an especially useful system for interacting with someone else's notes (such as these) in order to get more out of them.

The main features of Cornell notes are:

1. The main section of the page is for the details of what actually gets covered in class.
2. The left section (Cornell notes call for 2½ inches, though I have shrunk it to 2 inches) is for "big ideas"—the organizational headings that help you organize these notes and find details that you are looking for. These have been left blank for you to add throughout the year, because the process of deciding what is important is a key element of understanding and remembering.
3. Cornell notes call for the bottom section (2 inches) to be used for a 1–2 sentence summary of the page in your own words. This is always a good idea, but you may also choose to use that space for other things you want to remember that aren't in these notes.

Use this space for summary and/or additional notes:

How to Get Nothing Worthwhile Out Of These Notes

Because this book serves as a combination of your textbook and a set of notes, you may be tempted to sleep through class because "it's all in the book," and then use these notes look up how to do the homework problems when you get confused. If you do this, you will learn very little physics, and you will find this class to be both frustrating and boring.

How to Get the Most Out Of These Notes

These notes are provided so you can pay attention and participate in class without having to worry about writing everything down. However, because active listening, participation and note-taking improve your ability to understand and remember, it is important that you interact with these notes and the discussion.

The "Big Ideas" column on the left of each page has been deliberately left blank. This is to give you the opportunity to go through your notes and categorize each section according to the big ideas it contains. Doing this throughout the year will help you keep the information organized in your brain—it's a lot easier to remember things when your brain has a place to put them!

If we discuss something in class that you want to remember, *mark or highlight it in the notes*! If we discuss an alternative way to think about something that works well for you, *write it in*! You paid for these notes—don't be afraid to use them!

There is a summary section at the bottom of each page. Utilize it! If you can summarize something, you understand it; if you understand something, it is much easier to remember.

Use this space for summary and/or additional notes: