



Viewing Guide:

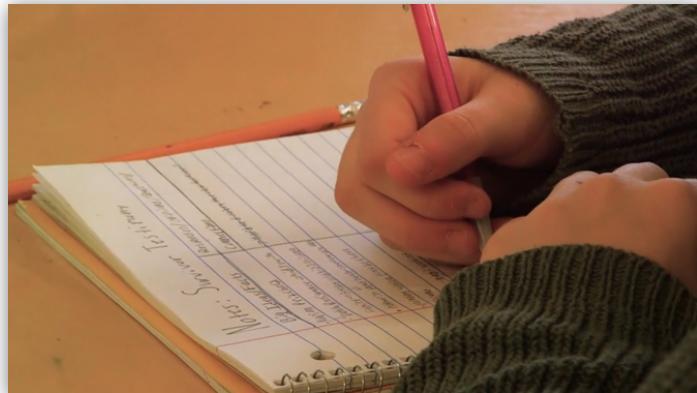
Teaching Strategy: Two-Column Note-Taking

Overview

In this classroom video, social studies teacher Paul Capobianco uses the Two-Column Note-Taking teaching strategy with his students in order to organize their thoughts and emotional responses as they listen to recorded survivor testimony. Two-column note-taking involves drawing a vertical line down the middle of a piece of paper, dividing the notes that students will take into two discrete categories. The strategy allows students to jot down the major ideas they hear as they watch a video or a speaker, and it gives literal space for students to process their emotional responses to challenging material.

As you watch, consider the following:

1. At 0:23, Mr. Capobianco says, "In eighth grade, I'm spending a lot of time with our students getting better at taking notes, because I want them to have a soft landing in high school." What do you think he means? Why is this important?
2. At 1:35, Mr. Capobianco says, "Everyone's experience is different . . . What's your neighbor's note-taking like? What's your peer's like? It's not a secret. I'm not evaluating their note-taking per se right here, just one person alone. I want them to work together." What are the advantages of collaborative note-taking? What are the potential drawbacks?
3. At 5:13, Mr. Capobianco reflects, "I love that [the students] wanted to follow the instructions of how to take notes, but I did not want them to lose the experience of taking in the testimony." How do you strike that balance between effective note-taking and absorbing complex material with your students as they hone their note-taking skills?



In this video:

Paul Capobianco, teacher
8th grade, Atrium School
Watertown, MA

Video Goals:

The purpose of watching this video is to:

- Learn how the Two-Column Note-Taking teaching strategy can help students process emotionally challenging material
- Observe the teacher giving guidance to students as they learn note-taking skills



Lesson Resources:

- Teaching Strategy: Two-Column Note-Taking
- Remembering the Past: Sonia Weitz's History (video)
- Life or Death in the Netherlands (video)
- Holocaust and Human Behavior, Chapter 11