

QEC Notes

APSU Writing Center Handout

(Question–Evidence–Conclusion) Note-Taking Method

Useful for subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature.

Focuses on capturing key ideas and the connections between arguments and evidence.

Emphasizes understanding and evaluation of ideas.

Supports argumentative and analytical essay planning.

Helps track the relationship between the overall topic, evidence, and conclusions.

How to use the QEC Note-Taking Method

Divide the page into two or three sections.

Begin with a guiding question.

Write concise notes beneath the question.

Include key quotations, facts, data, and examples.

Conclude each section with a statement that answers the question or forms a thesis.

QEC Note-Taking Examples:

Question

How does the QEC Method work?

Evidence

Concise Sentences

Use Bullet Points

Include Quoted Examples

Conclusion

Answer the question in a couple of sentences.

Summarize the key points.

Question

Why did the French Revolution occur?

Evidence

Economic inequality

Enlightenment ideas

Financial Crisis

Conclusion

The French Revolution was caused by a combination of social inequality and economic instability influenced by Enlightenment thinking.

References

- Matrix Education. (n.d.). *The Ultimate Guide to Writing Perfect Studying Notes*. Matrix Education. <https://www.matrix.edu.au/the-ultimate-guide-to-writing-perfect-study-notes-the-best-way-to-revise>
- Staake, J. (2022, December 30). *7 Helpful Note-Taking Strategies Your Students Should Know*. We Are Teachers. <https://www.weareteachers.com/note-taking-strategies/>
- Tamm, S. (2023, January 20). *The 9 Most Effective Note-Taking Methods*. E-student.org. <https://e-student.org/note-taking-methods/>