The Cornell Method is a great way to take notes in a way that makes it easy to review and study later.

Title and Date

Keywords & Questions

Soon after class, jot down key points and formulate questions based on notes.

Main Notes & Key Thoughts

During class, record lecture notes here.

Focus on...
Key words and ideas
Important dates, people and places
Repeated information
Ideas written on the board
Information from the text
Diagrams and Pictures
Formulas

After class, consider...
What's the significance of the information?
How can I apply this new knowledge?
What principle(s) is this information based on?
How does this fit in to what I already know?
What am I left thinking about this new learning?

Summary

After class, sum up each page of your notes in a sentence or two.

Example Printable

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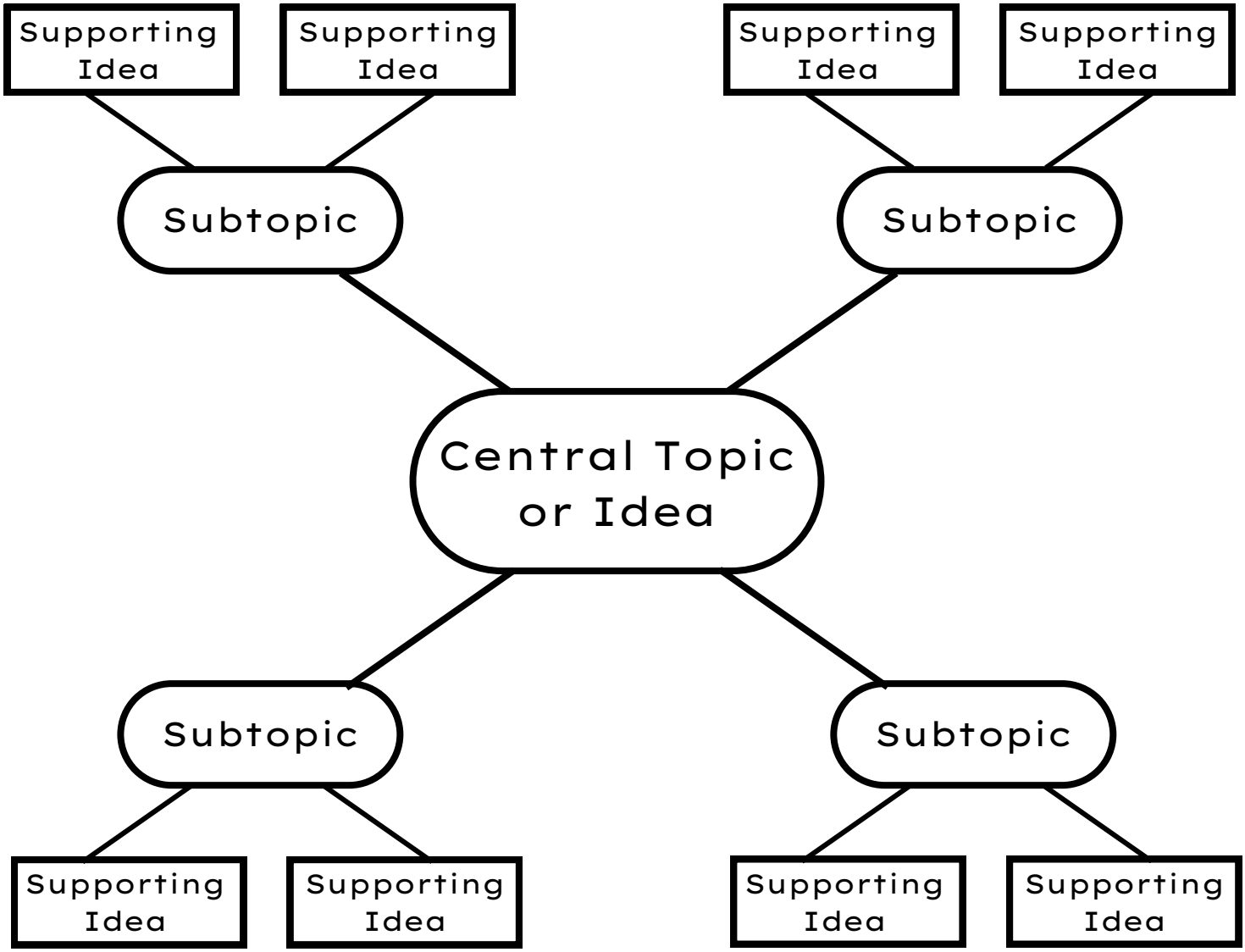
NOTE TAKING STRATEGIES
Mind Mapping

The Mind Mapping Method is great for science and history classes that have topics that intertwine or are abstract.



Example

We recommend making your own mind map rather than using a template so your notes can flow and connect naturally.

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NOTE TAKING STRATEGIES
Color Coding

The Color Coding Method helps you streamline how you access and review your notes through a visual organizational structure.

- Main Topic/Titles
- Definitions
- Key Events
- Formula or Data
- Key Person
- Examples
- Questions

Choose 3-4 colors and pair each one to an important focus of that class (examples to the left).

After taking notes in class, review the notes and color code important information based on the legend you created.

- I am lost - ask for help!
- I've almost got it - review
- I've got this!

Try color coding a different way to indicate your level of comfort with class information

Example

Tips:
Stick to 3-4 main colors and the same color pattern.
Don't color code everything!
Use matching sticky notes to write additional thoughts and questions when studying.

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