



LASSI Worksheet: Selecting Main Ideas (SMI)

Name: _____

The ability to select main ideas will benefit you by:

- Helping you feel less overwhelmed in lecture and while studying
- Having more streamlined, efficient notes
- Being able to understand the material in simpler terms
- Remembering the essentials
- Tying in important points from previous classes into your current assignments

Activity:

Do you ever have difficulties knowing what to study? Do you tend to be surprised when you see what questions are on the test? Explain.

Tips for selecting main ideas while reading:

- Skim the headlines and titles of the chapter to get an idea of what the chapter is about.
- Read the chapter's summary, it would prepare you by knowing what to expect in class.
- Try skimming or quickly read what's important in the chapter. You can recognize important paragraphs by first reading the first and last sentence, if the paragraph seems important, skim it quickly. However, if it seems like a filler paragraph, you can skip it to save time.
- Highlight or underline any important or vague phrases/words.
- Try to write a short summary about what you read.

Tips for selecting main ideas in lectures:

- Write down any lesson/lecture objectives your professors provide from in-class slides.
- Refrain from writing down everything on the board or PowerPoint. If you tend to do that, go over the notes after class and underline/highlight and implement the Cornell Method (tinyurl.com/jy83fyc).



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- After lecture go back and briefly summarize in your own words what you have heard.
- Listen for main ideas which the professors may highlight by using:
 - Statements such as "The main point is. . ." or "Remember this. . ."
 - Statements that they repeat or emphasize
- Talk with classmates. They may pick up on things you miss and vice versa.
- Sketch. If you think a visual will help you remember a main idea, do that rather than writing things down word for word.
- Use a note taking method that will help you recognize important points and retain more information (<https://tinyurl.com/ybjz6wfs>).

Resources

- Cornell Note Taking Method (<http://lsc.cornell.edu/notes.html>)
- 5 Best Notetaking Methods (tinyurl.com/mux7ogb)
- Note Taking Systems (<https://tinyurl.com/yafi2era>)
- Finding Main ideas in a paragraph (<https://tinyurl.com/ycrp8pj7>)

Exercise: Use the resources above to experiment with different notetaking styles. Select 1-2 that you want to implement in your classes in the next few weeks.

In the lines below, reflect on what worked, what didn't work, and how what you want to improve on:
