**How to Take Cornell Notes for AP Literature**

Cornell notes are a structured note-taking system developed in the 1950s by a professor at Cornell University. Cornell notes are arranged in a way that allows students to organize notes so they can find important information more easily. You can use this system during a lecture, while reading chapters in a textbook, or any other similar activity you might encounter during your education. This system allows you to keep your notes organized, summarize the main points of a lecture quickly, and review for tests more efficiently.

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| **AP Lit – Per. # Name**  **Assignment title Date** | |
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You will be using Cornell notes in AP Literature to help enhance how you ready, study, and think about literature. The method is required when assigned—all assignments not completed according to this method when assigned with automatically lose half the credit of the assignment. Cornell notes are divided into four sections:

**#1**

**Section 1 – *Heading***

Students will write the name of the class, their name, the date, the title of the assignment, and the page numbers for the assignment (if applicable)

**Section 2 – *Objective Notes***

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| AP Lit – Per. # Name  Assignment title Date | |
|  | **Objective Notes** |
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In the largest section the page, students will take objective notes based on the reading assigned. Summarize from the pages assigned. Include important details but avoid writing every word, minor details, or ideas that are too general. These should be bullet points, outlines, color coded—whatever works for you.

*Ex: Good facts*

* + William Shakespeare (1564—1616) was an English playwright, poet, and actor

**#2**

* + Produced most known works between 1589-1613

*Ex: Not good (too general and doesn’t really serve as evidence for anything)*

* Literature and theatre became more popular during the Elizabethan era

*Ex: Not good (minor detail)*

* 18 year-old Shakespeare married 26 year-old Anne Hathaway

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| AP Lit – Per. # Name  Assignment title Date | |
| **Sub-headings** | Objective Notes |
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**\*\*AP STUDENTS BEWARE:** It is common knowledge that AP students know how to complete a large quantity of work in a short amount of time—that is NOT THE AIM of these assignments. Do not take detailed notes for the sake of taking detailed notes; you need to learn how to discern what is necessary information from what is not. This also does not mean you take bare-bones notes. You need to read actively and think critically about the information on which you are taking notes.

**#3**

**Section 3 – *Sub-Headings***

Based on the objective notes students take, they will create sub-headings based on the main topics of the objective notes taken.

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| AP Lit – Per. # Name  Assignment title Date | |
| Sub-headings | Objective Notes |
| **Guided questions** | |

Ex: If several notes are about the tragic hero, then create a sub-heading about that topic; however, if there is one single note on *Macbeth*, DO NOT create a sub-heading about that single idea

**Section 4 – *Guided Questions***

At the bottom of each page, students will answer guided questions that relates to multiple points of the reading and should incorporate/reference the objective notes of that page. These questions are meant to be a scaffold for students to develop their skills at reading more critically and actively reflecting on what they have read. These questions might be the questions at the end of each chapter, or they might be assigned by Mrs. Phillips.

**#4**