

How to Take Notes of Videos

While viewing a video for class, the most *important* thing to keep in mind is to *be aware of the theme of the course, theme of the week, the focus of the class, and anything the instructor says to pay attention*. Common mistakes that students make are: 1) write excessive notes, 2) not write enough or any notes, or 3) not understand the video. Here are three methods you can try.

- **Method 1: Watch the video and write notes afterwards.**

It is best to watch the film and pay close attention to it. Paying close attention to a film will allow you to remember scenes that are memorable, quotes that stood out for you, character behavior and development, and other key moments that may be of importance. *The one thing you have to make sure is to write (or type) everything that you remember about the film after you have viewed it.* This will allow you to think thoroughly and be very descriptive about the film.

Advantage: If you were assigned to write an essay about the film, you could use your notes as the start of the essay.

- **Method 2: While watching the video, take notes of scenes that interests you or scenes that look important to you.**

Sometimes we forget scenes or key moments after watching a video. The best approach in this case is to *write short notes of scenes or key moments that appear important. Do not write notes constantly, as this will defeat the purpose of watching the video.* You want to be able to view the video and write notes seamlessly. Another approach to this is to write notes every 5-10 minutes about how the video has progressed.

Advantage: Taking notes every 5-10 minutes allows you to create a timeline of events. It can help you pinpoint significant scenes of interest.

- **Method 3: Research the video prior to viewing it. Check out the video from the Library/ or rent it for a second viewing.**

Assuming the instructor announces the video on the syllabus or the class before, *watch the movie trailer and read reviews about the film prior to viewing it in class.* This will give you a better sense of what you are about to see. An alternative or addition to this is *viewing the film a second time outside of class.* You can **watch it and take notes at your own pace** by stopping, rewinding, forwarding, or replaying scenes of interest.

Advantage: Doing research prior to the video and/or viewing the video a second time can help you better understand the story plot or specific elements to the video that may be important for an assignment or the class itself.