# THE CORNELL SYSTEM OF NOTE-TAKING

The value of note-taking is directly related to how soon and how often you review.

- 1. Use an  $8 \frac{1}{2} \times 11$  notebook.
- 2. Divide each page in two as shown below.
- 3. Take notes on the right side of the page.
- 4. Use abbreviations.
- 5. As soon as possible after class, review and rework your notes.
  - a. Don't just recopy or type your notes without thought.
  - b. Rewrite incomplete or skimpy parts in greater detail.
  - c. Fill-in gaps you remember and points heard but not noted.
- 6. Summarize main points on the left side of the page.

## **Recall Here**

This is the recall section.

Enter key words, phrases, points.

Use this section for review.

Recite aloud.

Review with other students.

### **Lecture Notes Here**

Outline lecture here.

List major ideas and theories.

Use hierarchical organization.

Leave space between ideas to clarify later.

Record all pictures and graphs.

Use abbreviations:

eg = for example

w/ = with

w/o = without

w/I = within

\* = important

\*\* = very important

def = definition

intro = introduction

govt = government

est = estimate

DA = I disagree

#### Optional:

Write on one side of page only.

#### Optional:

Leave space for disagreement and your thoughts at the bottom.

Source: Dianna L. Van Blerkom, *College Study Skills: Becoming a Strategic Learner*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Wadsworth Publishing, 2002.