



Digital VS Paper Notetaking

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Paper Notetaking

ADVANTAGES



Able to retain information better



Easier to make your notes exactly how you want them



Easier to draw things in

DISADVANTAGES

Very time-consuming, and uses up time that could be spent on other coursework and assignments

Can become very messy for those who don't have good penmanship

Difficult to edit

Digital Notetaking

ADVANTAGES



Faster and more efficient



You can use Technological tools including voice typing and spell check



A lot easier to edit and add ideas in

DISADVANTAGES

Harder to retain information

Reliance on technology

Requires Wi-Fi, a computer, and the skills to use it

More expensive

How do students at Lakeland College take their notes?

As technology is on the rise, a common question is whether individuals are accepting or rejecting technology in their academic studies.

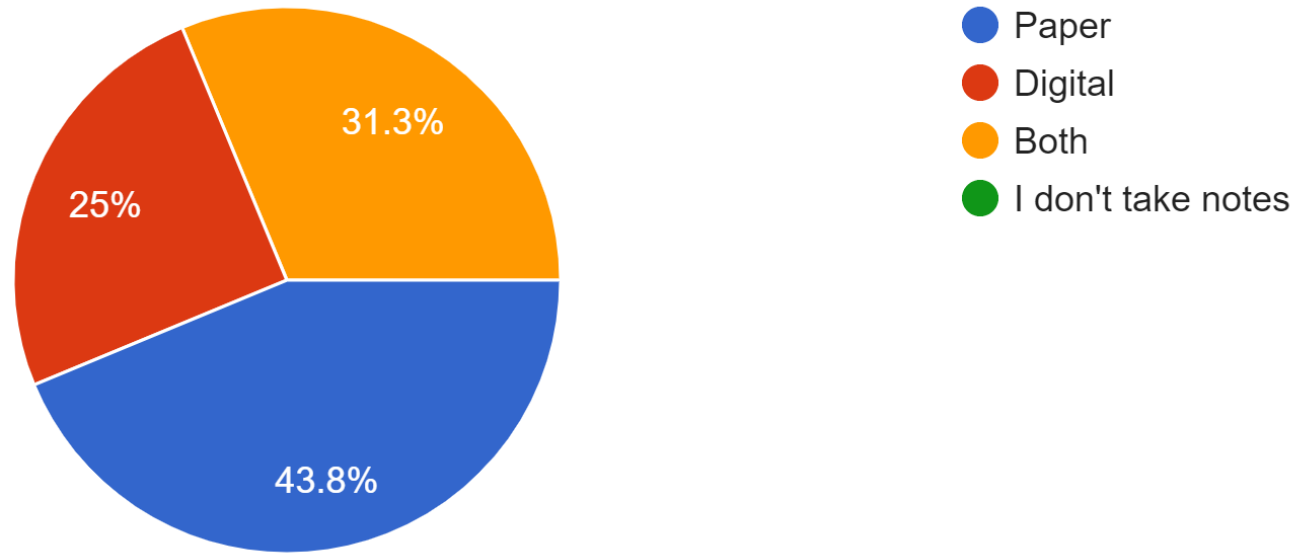
After having discussions with many of my peers, I have learned that students at Lakeland College vary in how they take their notes.

Students use varying methods of note-taking, depending on their ongoing degree and the time they are willing to put into their academics.

I created a Google forum where I asked students how they preferred to take their notes.

Results:

How do you take your notes?



What Do Students Prefer?

Some answers on the Google Forum

“I use paper because I enjoy writing and it makes it easier for me to memorize.”

“Digital because I’m a slow writer so it is easier to keep up with my classwork and easier to input into Quizlet.”

“Digital because I can organize them better.”

“Digital first for efficiency, and then paper to study to help with memorization.”

“Digital for convenience”

“Paper because it helps me remember the content better.”

Both handwritten and digital note-taking are used by students. Overall, most students who answered my Google Forum preferred to handwrite their notes. Many students prefer to use a combination of both so they can have both efficiency in class and better retention of class material.

Digital Note-taking Software

OneNote on Microsoft is a digital version of a notebook where you can take all your notes and organize them by lecture or chapter. It is very easy to use and allows you to stay organized in all of your classes.

Quizlet is a common study tool used by many college students. Taking notes online allows students to easily transfer their notes into Quizlet or similar apps.

Goodnote, Glean, and Notability are all note-taking software, which can make your notes for you based on your readings or recordings. These note-taking applications can be very beneficial for students who need extra help/accommodations. I recently experienced a concussion and have become aware of how beneficial apps like these can be. Not every student will have the same amount of time or ability to write notes on their own.

Do student's note-taking behaviors change in class versus if they are reading course material?

Some students stick to one note-taking strategy, but others note-taking depends on the situation. Many students said that they will take notes digitally on their laptops in class so they can keep up with the pace of lectures, and then they will write their notes later for studying purposes because it helps them retain the information better.

Personally, I take my notes digitally during class lectures, but then will write them out after class because writing notes by hand is very time-consuming and I cannot keep up with the material if I am writing in class while my professors are lecturing.

One way to make hand-written notes more efficient is for students to print out their PowerPoint presentations and write any additional information so they have less to write out. Those who have iPads also can download their PowerPoint and write directly onto the slides.

Overall, it seems that those who write out their notes will be more inclined to use their laptops in class for efficiency. Those who take digital notes use that strategy across all situations.

Does cursive need to be taught in schools? Or should we teach keyboarding?

I believe that students need to be taught cursive so they can sign their names. I do not think that they need to know every word of the alphabet and I don't think they should get tested on their ability to write in cursive. Cursive seems to be very dated, as not many people still write in cursive.

Teaching keyboarding in elementary schools instead of cursive would be a lot more beneficial. Being able to type and use a computer is a necessity in today's society. Being efficient in keyboarding will set students up to be successful in the future.

When I was in elementary, I was taught cursive. I remember having to write most of my assignments in cursive during grades 3 and 4. Today I never write in cursive, but I use a computer almost every day. Coming to college I was not the quickest typer which slowed down my note-taking and writing process for assignments. I believe I would have benefitted more from learning typing in grade school.

Princeton University Research

At Princeton University, researchers measured how your note-taking style correlates with your grades. The researchers discovered that those who wrote their notes on paper performed better on exams than those who typed their notes on a computer.

If I were to duplicate the Princeton University research study at Lakeland College I think that I would find similar results. I believe that those who wrote their notes by hand would perform better overall than those who did it digitally. This could be because those who write out their notes may be more dedicated to their schoolwork and put more time and effort into their studies. I believe that those who write out their notes can consolidate the information in their long-term memory. Having to write out notes after class also ensures that students are reviewing the class materials which helps against Ebbinghaus' curve of forgetting, which states that we lose half of the material we learned after just 20 minutes.



Conclusion

Although technology is becoming more advanced and efficient, many students still prefer to write out their notes in some form. I can see more students buying iPads instead of laptops in the future, so they have the option to both type and write their notes using the Apple pen. However, technological devices may not be accessible to all people because of how expensive they can be, which limits students' options. Overall, digitally typing your notes is an effective way to take notes during class without falling behind. Notetaking software applications can also help students who have a harder time in school.

References

Wood, S.E., Wood, E.R., & Boyd, D. (2011). *World of Psychology*. Pearson.

[For More Effective Studying, Take Notes With Pen and Paper | NOVA | PBS](#)