

VERBAL LEARNERS

Verbal learners best understand concepts when they receive a verbal explanation rather than a visual one; they comprehend ideas best through discussions where they can hear and explain ideas (Felder & Silverman, 1988, p. 676).

How to Help Yourself: Actively participate in group discussions, whether through in-class dialogue or online discussion board posts.

STUDY HABITS OVERVIEW

1. **Make verbal connections with concepts**– after reading an article or listening to a lecture, summarize what you learned in your own words whether through writing or aloud (Felder & Silverman, 1988, p. 676).
2. **Find a study group or partner** – increase your understanding of topics by joining a study group or finding a partner to discuss ideas. Verbal learners best study with others.
3. **Use effective study tools** - audio books, text to speech software, recording through your phone, etc.

BRAINSTORMING: FREEWITING

Freewriting helps verbal learners generate ideas or even drafts of assignments in a relaxed way.

1. First, determine a time limit for how long you want to write. Then, set a timer and write without stopping until the time period is up.
2. Write down whatever comes to mind, whether that be paper topic ideas, research you want to conduct, or even your first paragraph!
3. You can write in complete sentences or list out ideas in phrases.
4. Afterward, pull key ideas and sentences from your freewriting exercise that help you move forward with your assignment or begin to review your draft.

Example: A student completed a freewriting exercise about their calling and three ways that it impacted the world. They listed their calling, being an artist, at the top of their paper and set a timer for five minutes.

Then, they wrote down ways that art impacts the world: giving others hope, adding beauty to the world, challenging culture, displaying truth, helping others feel seen, providing moments of joy, wrestling with complex ideas, elevating cities through street art, promoting businesses, expanding others' horizons, or mirroring God as a creator.

Lastly, they chose giving others hope, helping others feel seen, and elevating cities through street art as the three main areas that they wanted to focus on in their paper!

NOTE-TAKING: CORNELL NOTE-TAKING METHOD

[The Cornell Note-Taking method](#) is powerful for verbal learners because it combines spoken and written techniques. As you prepare to listen to the lecture, divide your paper into three sections—one for notes, a cue column, and an area for summary. Then, follow the five steps of the Cornell method: **record, reduce, recite, reflect, and review.**

1. **Record:** As you listen to the lecture, write down the main ideas and terms in the notes section.
2. **Reduce:** Summarize those key ideas into a single word or phrase in the cue column.
3. **Recite:** Cover the notes section and recite the main ideas aloud in your own words.
4. **Reflect:** Write down any insight or main takeaways in the summary section.
5. **Review:** Go over your notes as you prepare for an upcoming quiz or exam.

TEST-TAKING: AUDIO FLASHCARDS

Audio flashcards help you remember key concepts, terms, and themes. As you begin studying for the test, determine the main ideas that you need to know from the chapters or study guide. Then, record yourself stating these facts and ideas. Listen to your audio flashcards to prepare; you could even listen when you're taking a walk, working out, or completing a chore!

Example: You're studying for your theatre quiz and need to understand the definition of a tragedy. Your study guide lists three main elements.

Tragedy:

- Derived from the Greek and literally means "goat song."
- Begins peacefully but moves toward a troubled ending.
- Often results in the death of the protagonist, or their relationship with society is ruptured.

Record yourself reading these three facts about a tragedy aloud. Then, listen to your recording to review.