

The MatriX Self-help Zones.Zone 4: Research & Note-taking

"Be curious!" Said Professor Stephen Hawking

Research is vital. So 'Be curious.' Use libraries, the Internet, brain-storming. Research helps you to dig deeper into your subject and helps you to **demonstrate that deeper understanding in projects and exams** - and **EARN MORE MARKS**. Study and research will provide important new stepping stones in your work.

But.. YOU have to bring it alive with your skill and imagination.

Internet research is fine, but don't just 'copy and paste' it. Learn from it. Get involved with the subject.

Build your own reasoning and argument, add **your** creative interpretation. That's what earns the marks. Remember teachers and examiners have the same access to the internet as you do and they can spot 'verbatim' sources a mile away!

NOTE-TAKING.

This is an important skill which you will need as you progress through school....
...and it'll be vital at Third Level.

Notes shouldn't be a detailed essay or a finished piece of work!

Keywords are an important element of note-taking. Listen out (and watch out) for these key words, headings, themes or concepts. They'll help you to create a framework on which to hang the sequences which follow.

Don't try to write down every word. It's not possible.

Invent your own Code. Here are a few ideas.....

Use a highlighter to emphasise important points, or underline them.

Try block capitals for sub-headings.

Use different coloured pens, for different topics.

Use abbreviations for words- either existing 'abbrvs' or invent your own.

Use bullet points, asterisks, exclamation marks etc., for different elements such as '?' = 'Look this up later' and '!' = 'Don't agree with this' etc.