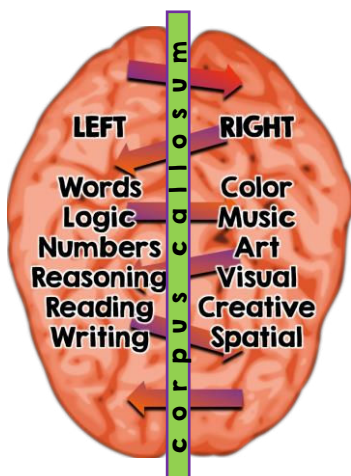


# Using Doodle Notes

The “doodle note” strategy activates both hemispheres of a student’s brain at the same time. When a student engages in coloring, doodling, or artistic embellishment of their lesson material, the two sides of the brain work together! This leads to stronger focus and retention.



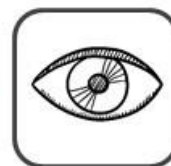
doodle  
notes™



increased focus



retention through dual coding



mental links



boost in problem solving skills



activated neural pathways



picture superiority effect



creativity & alertness




communication between brain hemispheres



doodling takes just enough attention to keep the brain from daydreaming without allowing it to become distracted.



doodlenotes.org



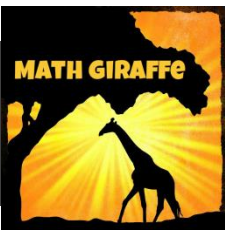
the brain converts

BLENDS of visual information and linguistic information into long-term memory more easily.

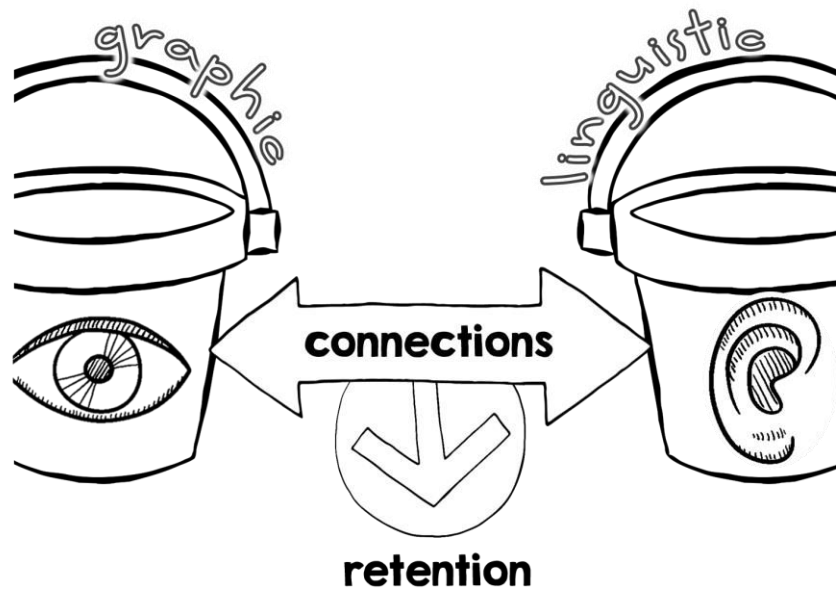
Visual note-taking allows student brains to process and retain lesson material more effectively.

doodlenotes.org

Learn more at doodlenotes.org

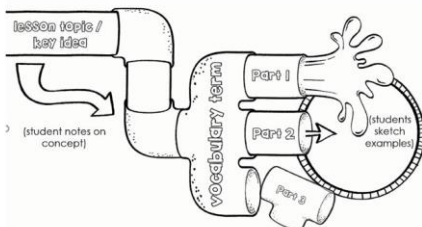


# Getting Started



This [guide to getting started](#), called **“Doodle Notes Demystified,”** offers a simplified plan to starting teaching with doodle notes in your own classroom right away, without any confusion! (Click the images below to read through it and download the free schedule.)

It includes links to what you will need along the way, and breaks it down into simple baby steps, just offering what you need one day at a time.



**Jump Right In and Start with Your Very Next Lesson Plan!**

**A Step-By-Step Simplified Guide**



A free resource guide to getting started

## WEEK ONE

### IN CLASS

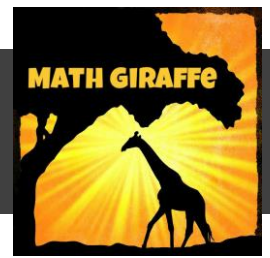


### FOR YOU, THE TEACHER





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## Clip Art & Font Credit





when you're teaching with doodle notes,

remember...



### First of all..

There is no way to write a one-size-fits-all doodle manual. They are extremely flexible, and the best way to use them really depends on your own students and your classroom culture.



### Set a Time Limit

When it is time to cut off the lecture or the lesson, be sure to stop. Just as you would have with regular notes. Move on. Students who want to add to it can do so later during free time or at home.



### Use a Teacher Copy

The easiest way to do this is to project/display a blank copy of the same doodle page that you hand out. Then, complete your "teacher copy" as you give notes. You can expand past it and add notes on the board, talk through the lesson, and lecture as you normally would.

Even if you keep your note page "bare bones" and just fill in the blanks, your main job is to talk and model the concept and examples, just as you normally would.



### Show a Sample

Some will need just a little guidance, or official permission to do whatever they want on their own page. You really do want to encourage and allow personalization and creativity.

So, the first few times you use a doodle note approach, show a student sample just briefly to give them the idea. I include a photo in each one that I create so that you can use it as an example until your students get the hang of it and develop their own styles.



### Working Document/ Reference Sheet

One of the most unexpected benefits that comes along with this teaching strategy is how proud the students are of their note sheets!

They will pull it out over and over again to use as a reference.

Encourage this! Let their note pages become working documents that are always on hand as graphic organizers or study guides.

when you're filling in doodle notes,

remember to...



**PICK A CORE COLOR COMBO  
(5-6 COLORS).**

Make sure some are dark for writing and some are light for highlighting.



**USE COLOR IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.**

Fill in the important words with **DARK, BOLD, OR BRIGHT COLORS** and details with accent colors.

Color code when useful.



**MAKE IMPORTANT WORDS STAND OUT.**

Make key words and ideas **LARGER** and details smaller.



**ADD SKETCHES AND DOODLES TO SHOW  
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONCEPTS**

Show how subtopics relate.



**RELAX AND ENJOY!**

Doodle Notes are proven to help make learning stick through using the creative side of your brain **WHILE** receiving new information

when you're creating doodle notes,

remember...



## Plan your Layout (or begin with a template)

Think about layouts that would make sense for the lesson, (think graphic organizers). Does it make sense to have a main idea circle in the center with 4 (or more) categories stemming from it? Or do you want the layout to be more linear, and have arrows connecting boxes? Or maybe a ladder or pyramid with space for students to write. You have infinite choices. Get creative!



## Choose your Fonts Wisely

A good rule of thumb is choose simply two fonts; it's good to use one fancy font (preferably one they can color), and one basic font. This will help your doodle notes look aesthetically pleasing; your students will love them and won't be overwhelmed!

My favorite fancy / empty fill fonts are KG Second Chances, KB Stick to It, and The Bubble Letters. My favorite basic fonts are Century Gothic, Dom Casual, and Berlin Sans.



## Insert Cool Graphics (but leave room for student input)

Whenever adding a graphic to your doodle note page, be sure there is enough room for your students to write inside whenever possible. For example, if you wish to create a Venn diagram, make the circles a little bit bigger, so students can write in them with ease!

Make sure there is plenty of white space. If your students are motivated to write something down, you want to allow space for that.



## Embed Interactive Tasks

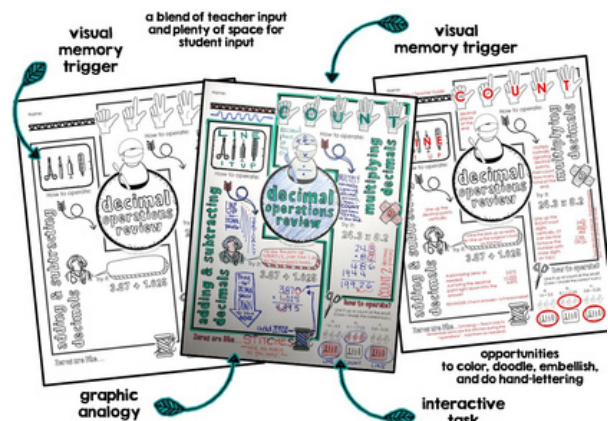
Interactive tasks are so essential; it's important to mix in a variety of tasks. But how do you choose which tasks? I recommend looking at the bigger picture and working your way backwards. What information do you want them to remember when test time comes? Then, break it down. What information do you want them to remember within a lesson? Consider the importance of each concept.

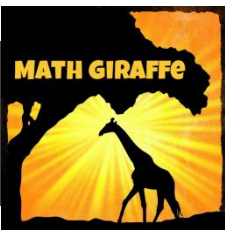
Embed tasks, such as Color Coding, Fill in the Blanks, Sketching, Labeling, Example Questions, and more! (Head to the "Embedding Interactive Tasks" blog post on [doodlenoteclub.com](http://doodlenoteclub.com) for more ideas and details).



## Double-check all parts are included

To get all of the brain benefits and have a true "doodle note" sheet, you must include the various criteria that make up a doodle note. This is how we activate the brain processing that leads to all the amazing learning benefits.

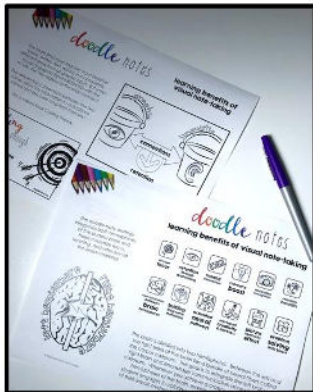




# More Free Support

Our “Quick Start” page at [doodlenotes.org](http://doodlenotes.org) is another great place to gather some free downloads and information about teaching with visual notes.

1



**Download your FREE informational presentation and handout.**

This is great to share with parents, admin, and even students! It shows the brain processing and explains the learning benefits of visual note-taking.

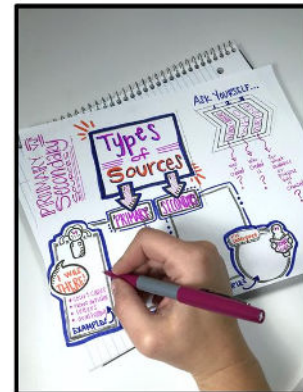
2



**Download your FREE doodle note about visual note-taking.**

Students can do this as their first doodle note set. They will learn how their brain processes graphic and linguistic information while they try it out themselves!

3



**Read tips from teachers using visual notes in their classrooms.**

Get started right away by downloading templates (or buying pre-made doodle note sets). Take advantage of the insights of teachers who have gone before you.

**If you want to go beyond just the quick start, or you've already tried doodle notes and seen the benefits, you can dive in deeper and learn all about this brain-based strategy in the [FREE Doodle Note Handbook](#), a more detailed e-book for teachers using visual notes in the classroom.**

