The Outline Note-taking Method:

Main Topic
• Sub-topic
· Supporting Details
· Supporting Details Picture or Diagram
· Supporting Details
• Sub-topic
· Supporting Details
· Supporting Details Main Point
· Supporting Details

The outline method of note-taking is a common form of note-taking, especially when instructors provide their notes using PowerPoint slides. It organizes information into main topics, sub-topics, and supporting details with indentations. Bullets or numbers are often used, but if indentations are used this is not necessary.

Tips:

- Do not try to write down everything the instructor says in complete sentences
- After class read through your notes and rewrite anything that doesn't make sense or add to your notes while everything is still fresh in your mind
- In the margins or on the right-hand side of the notes add diagrams, pictures, or main points as appropriate to help with studying and recall

How to study from an outline:

- 1. Read through each line one at a time attempting to:
 - a. Explain the information to yourself
 - b. Connecting the ideas to others in your notes
- 2. Add clue words not originally included in the outline that can help prompt recall of the information
- 3. Using your own words, write a summary of the information that connects the main points to your notes

Adapted from:

- Missouri State University (https://www.missouristate.edu/assets/busadv2014/p.24.pdf)
- East Carolina University
 (https://access.ewu.edu/Documents/Academic%20Support%20Center/Outline Note Taking Method 2-2.pdf)
- Miami Dade College (http://www.mdc.edu/main/images/Social_formal_outline_note_taking_system_tcm6-32373.pdf)