

NOTE-TAKING TECHNIQUES

Francy McAllister, fifth grade teacher, used a combination of listening skills and note-taking techniques for an astronomy project. After she presented the basics of astronomy and students discussed and performed various experiments, Francy felt her fifth graders needed additional information in many areas. Each student selected an area in which he was interested, such as Mercury, Venus, black holes, space garbage, comets, etc. Resource materials and books were set aside for their use. The students took notes and made power outlines and posters. Each student presented his outline and poster to the class. During all presentations, students took notes in their science notebooks. They were required to have a small sketch and three facts about every presentation. The students were excellent listeners and a very attentive audience. For the last step in this project, as an evaluation, Francy gave students large sheets of newsprint which they folded into six squares. Using their notes, they mapped out six squares. Using their notes, they mapped out six areas of astronomy that they liked or understood best. Each student had to do his topic first and then five others. The results were great!

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