Handling Fast Lecturers

Often times students find that their once a week class instructor (for example) has a lot to say and not enough time to say it, which leads to marathon lecturing. This can leave students feeling frustrated and confused. Even more, students have a hard time filling out complete notes. If you are one of these students, check out these tips below to help deal with those fast speaking instructors.

1. Take more time to prepare for class
   - Review textbook material beforehand. Doing so will help familiarize yourself with key points that the professor might cover in class.

2. Be willing to make choices
   - Instead of trying to write down everything, pick what you feel are the main points. Occasionally you may write down the wrong thing and neglect important information, but that is okay. When this happens, go back and revise your notes immediately after class with those points you left out.

3. Exchange notes with a classmate
   - Your classmate may have written down something that you missed, so it is always beneficial to have a second set of notes to supplement your own.

4. Leave empty spaces in your notes
   - Leave space in your notes so you can go back and fill in the information you didn’t have time to write in during class. Use a symbol (i.e. *) to signal that you have missed something so you can come back to it.

5. See your instructor after class
   - Visit your instructor after class or during their office hours to review your notes with them and catch up on what you missed.

6. Use a voice recorder
   - Recording your instructor will give you the chance to review their lecture at any time. Some recording devices even have a feature to adjust the speed, so you can slow it down. Be sure that your instructor is comfortable with this before doing so.
7. Take notes on your readings before class

- As you read, take notes on main points. Leave room in these notes to add in notes from the corresponding lecture.

8. Go to lecture again

- Often times classes are taught in multiple sections. Ask your instructor if there is another section of the class that you can attend to listen to the lecture once more. This way you can review and add to your notes.

9. Ask questions

- Most instructors will have a time for students to ask questions. Use this time to clarify points that you may have missed. If you are so lost that you cannot come up with a specific question, let your instructor know. Often times they can guide you to a clearer question.

10. Ask the instructor to slow down

- This is the most obvious solution to the problem, so do not be afraid to ask. If that does not work, ask the instructor to repeat themselves.