

Critical listening – making the most of lectures

What is the purpose of lecture?

- To teach a ‘body of knowledge’.
- To help you identify and understand key concepts.
- To make you think about a subject in a new way.
- To make you see a topic from different perspectives.
- To stimulate you to think critically.

Before the lecture

- Read recommended texts.
- Become familiar with key vocabulary.
- Start thinking about the topic.
- Check the lecture summary in the subject outline – make sure you know what the lecturer is trying to achieve.

During the lecture

- Be an active listener:
 - think about the topic
 - ask yourself questions
 - relate new ideas to what you already know
 - concentrate
 - listen for and make notes on main points.
- Why take notes?
 - Helps you remember the content.
 - Gives you a framework for revision.

- Helps you to stay alert in the lecture.

After the lecture

- Talk to someone else about the content.
- Ask your lecturer for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation if it was used in lecture.
- Reread and reorganise your notes and handouts.
- List things you don't understand to ask your tutor.

Adapted from the following source:

Forman, R. n.d., *Note-making and critical thinking*, UTS: ELSSA Centre, Sydney.

