



Visual thinking

How many of you sit in lectures and tutorials doodling away on a page, filling up the margins, header, or footer with random pictures? It's time to turn that energy and idle motion into an effective note-taking technique.

Nowadays there is a lot of recognition of how learning styles work and how to be able to really reach your full potential by tapping into your preferred learning style. Many of us out there are visual learners and need to adapt a note-taking style to match!

That said, a visual note-taking style doesn't only work for visual learners, but can also benefit people with different learning styles.

The three videos on Dave Gray's page [What is Visual thinking?](#) are highly recommended to get you started in visual thinking and how to adapt it to your note-taking style.



VISUAL THINKING BASICS

1. VISUAL ALPHABET (GLYPHS)



2. COMBINING GLYPHS TO MAKE THINGS



Figure 1. Still from Squiggle Birds (video, 5:13);

Visual Thinking Basics (video, 20:00);

How to know what to draw (video, 16:52).

Organisation in visual thinking

Just because you're doodling away on a page doesn't mean you can't be organised. Bucks County Community College (2016) provides [some common 'visual organisers'](#) and how these can apply to different academic fields.

Getting inspiration

If you feel a visual approach might be your ticket to note-taking but need some more inspiration, head over to The Graphic Recorder for some [inspiration on your artistic notetaking journey](#).

References

Gray, D. (2016). *Visual thinking: What is visual thinking?* Retrieved from <http://xplaner.com/visual-thinking-school/>

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Kim Heckenberg (Manager)
Linda Parker (Manager)
Tahlia Birnbaum
Tae McKnight
Beverley Miles
Sara Perley

Katrina Trewin
Claire Urbach
Anna Wallace
Fiona Webber
Lisa Worthington