Research Brief: The Pen is Mightier than the Keyboard

Learning Objective: Continue building your skills in analyzing scientific research by identifying key components of the study (predictions, methodology, findings, and discussion). Evaluate its implications for learning and apply the findings to your own note-taking strategies. Today, we're working on T*he Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking* by Mueller & Oppenheimer (2014).

Structure and Contents of a Journal Article

Abstract

What is the main research question addressed in the study?	
What were the key **findings**?	

Introduction

What are the authors' main **hypotheses** (predictions)?	

Method

What was the experimental **design**? Who participated, and what did they do?	

Results

How did laptop note-taking compare to longhand note-taking in terms of learning outcomes?	
What was the role of verbatim transcription in student performance?	

Discussion

How do the authors explain their findings?	
What implications does this study have for students and educators?	
Did the study have any limitations? (Hint: The answer is YES.) If so, what were they?	

Follow-Up Research Task

Now find one new research article that has replicated, responded to, or cited Mueller & Oppenheimer (2014). This helps you see how science builds on earlier work.

Find a Follow-Up Study – using Google Scholar or PsycArticles.

Authors	
Year	
Title of the article	
Title of the publication	
Volume and issue	
Page numbers	

Brief Summary — (This information is in one specific place in the article. Do you remember where?)

What is the main research question addressed in the study?	
What was the experimental **design**? Who participated, and what did they do?	
What were the key **findings**?	

Critical Thinking

How does the follow-up strengthen or challenge the conclusions of the Mueller & Oppenheimer study?	
How might the findings from both studies influence how you take notes or how teachers encourage note-taking?	