



# PRACTICE PLAN WEEK 4, DAY 1

## TODAY'S PLAN

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**The What:** Today's practice will focus on note taking skills and organizing information, in order to begin to prepare for competition in their assigned events.

**The How:** After the group welcome and ice-breaker activity, you will introduce the importance of good note-taking to the group. The group will watch an introductory video to learn the basics of the note-taking method, and you can reiterate key points. Following the introduction, the whole group will practice note-taking on an article or page in a science text together.

When students understand the basics of the note-taking, assign them to take notes for one of their events with their partner. Provide a variety of textbooks, trusted websites and materials for students to choose from. We know this will feel early in the season for note-taking and event preparation, but it's important for students to get in and started. Students will change partners (and events) every 12 minutes, so almost all of your team members will get to practice the Cornell Note Taking System with each of their events. For the team members that are assigned four events, they will have to work on their fourth event either outside of a regularly scheduled practice or accept the work of their event partner.

Throughout the rest of the lesson plans, we will reference a document called the **Event Rotation Plan**. This is a document that you will create that will help you keep track of when event teams meet to work on their events and will help you ensure balance between events, particularly when students are assigned to more than one event within an event type. For example, in general, the first meeting of the week focuses on Lab Events and Build Events – your Event Rotation Plan will help you decide which Lab and Build Events should meet that week. We have provided a template for you, but we suggest recreating the template in Excel or Google Sheets, so you can update it easily. **Note:** Teams of students will likely need to meet outside of practice time.

**The Why:** Science Olympiad students prepare for the events by interacting with a lot of source material, and learning to understand as well as organizing that material will be vital to their success. Coaches often assume that students already know how to take notes effectively, and that's not always the case. We've selected Cornell Note Taking System as our model system, but you or your school may have a different method – that's fine. Whatever method you choose to teach, it's best for the entire team to use the same method in case of illness or partner changes at tournaments.

**Looking Ahead:** In subsequent sessions, students will have a chance to assess their notes for relevance and change them as necessary, so it's less important that their notes today are perfect and more important that they're getting started.



## Schedule

- » Welcome & Overview (Whole Group) - 5 minutes
- » Event Drill: Coach Teach (All Event Types) - 14 minutes
- » Event Drill: Participants' Hands-On Activity (All Event Types) - 36 minutes
- » Wrap Up (Whole Group) - 5 minutes

## Set-Up

- » Overhead, computer & LCD projector, white board or chart paper
- » Various science textbooks (consider having students bring theirs to practice)
- » School library science texts
- » List of trusted science websites that students can access
- » Computers (ideally 1/group), or Wi-Fi access for student devices
- » Prepare to project or show a page from a science textbook or article that the group will use to practice note-taking together
- » Prepare to show a note-taking introduction video to the group. Suggested videos are listed on our Coaching Program webpage: [soinc.org/coachingprogram](http://soinc.org/coachingprogram)
- » Extra paper, pens, pencils
- » Transfer the *Event Rotation Plan Sample* template into Excel or Google Sheets and fill it in with event types, events, and team members' names

## Copies

- » *Cornell Note Taking System* handouts, one for each student (See Appendix)

## PRACTICE PLAN

**Welcome & Overview (Whole Group)..... 5 minutes**

### Activity Description

- » Group welcome
- » Group announcements (if any)
- » Group warm-up: Play a quick round of science charades or Pictionary. Choose a student to draw the science item (ex. beaker, microscope, satellite) and the group guesses.

## EVENT DRILL

**Coach Teach (All Event Types)..... 14 minutes**

### Materials

- » Overhead, computer & LCD projector, or chart paper
- » *Cornell Note Taking System* handouts
- » Selected note-taking video (see [soinc.org/coachingprogram](http://soinc.org/coachingprogram) for suggestions)

### Activity Description

- » Distribute *Cornell Note Taking System* handouts to everyone.
- » **Script:** "Now that you understand your competition events, we're going to start on building up the skills you'll need to prepare for competition. In Science Olympiad you need to know as much as you can about a topic, whether that topic is a gravity vehicle or anatomy, and one of the best ways to learn a lot of information is to read about it, take notes, and review those notes, so we're going to work on note-taking today. I'm going to show you a quick introduction video, we're going to practice once as a group, and then you'll start some note-taking with each of your event partners. As you're watching the video, skim through the handout I gave you."
- » As a group, watch the introductory video.
- » Review the information on the *Cornell Note Taking System* handout with the group
- » Post or project a page from a science textbook or article for the group.
- » Read through part of the text and as the group what information they would include in their notes. Continue this process until you have 3-4 things listed in the righthand column. As a group, fill in the rest of the note-taking template.

## EVENT DRILL

**Participants' Hands-On Activity (All Event Types) ..... 36 minutes**

### Objective

- » After learning about a note-taking system, students will use the Science Olympiad rules for each event as a guide, to begin learning about and taking notes on the core topics for their event.

### Materials

- » Various science textbooks (consider having students bring theirs to practice)
- » School library science texts
- » Computers or student devices
- » *Cornell Note Taking System* handouts
- » Extra paper for note-taking, pens, pencils

### Activity Description

- » Distribute computers and library books if you are using them.
- » **Script:** "In a minute, you're going to break up into your events with your partner and using what you know about your event, choose a textbook, book or website that will likely have information that is relevant to your event. You'll have about 12 minutes with your partner to take notes on one topic that is related to your event. Don't forget to use the Rules for your event as your guide in deciding what's relevant. For example, if I'm taking notes on fossils, I'm going to look up one of the fossils that's on the Fossils List in the *Rules Manual*; I won't waste my time taking notes on something that's not listed. This is practice, so it's not important for you to learn everything right now, it's just important to get started."
- » Tell team members which events they will start on and designate areas to meet with their partners.
- » Switch events every 10-12 minutes.

**Wrap Up (Whole Group) ..... 5 minutes**

### Activity Description

- » Room clean-up
- » Assignment for next time: students can look for good references for their event topics
- » Reminder of next meeting

