

Some examples of 'Footnotes' techniques...

1. Note-taking grid. Ideal for summarising information that is being given quickly, without having to write it down word for word, or trying to summarise in bullet points etc.
2. Remembering grid. If you ask a child what they did at school today, they struggle to answer. The grid is used to annotate down during the day, in picture form, what they did. The images they create are re-usable, so an icon vocabulary can be built up.
3. Learning grid. Similar to the above, but in more detail, annotating what they have learnt during the day. Pictures are used as memory triggers to recall new information learnt in lessons.
4. Distraction grid. This 32 box grid accompanies the learning grid – it is literally placed underneath it. For children who are easily distracted and tend to daydream, this grid is used to hold their focus on the subject being taught.
5. Organisational grid. This grid is useful for getting rid of distracting thoughts and allowing the mind to focus on one subject at a time.
6. Spelling grid. This strategy is designed not only to help children learn to spell, but also to take away the fear of words.
7. Sequential reading grid. This strategy is for facilitating reading of books any length.
8. Reading comprehension grid. As above, except that a whole sentence can be put into one picture. Following that, a whole page in one box to create a memory of that page, and then finally a whole book can be summarised in picture form.
9. Speed reading grid. This strategy can be used by all ages as an aid to comprehending and summarising whole books; several of my undergraduate students use this strategy when working through a reading list in preparation for an essay. A chunk of text or even a whole chapter can be annotated in the grid to create a picture-based memory of its content. A visual map is thereby created without copious notes, and the books with the most relevant content are easily and quickly identified.
10. Revision grid. Similar to the above, the purpose of this strategy is to summarise large amounts of information in a picture-based visual map.
11. Big Picture Thinking grid. This is a technique for those who find it difficult to make sequential connection between ideas and thoughts or who suffer from short-term memory problems. It is particularly useful when faced with the pressure of having to make important choices or decisions, or when trying to plan for the future.