

Pros and Cons of Recording Lectures

Benefits of Using a Recorder

- Often, a class lecture is complex and difficult to understand. If you've ever had to sit through a lecture about Emily Dickinson's poetry, you know how difficult comprehending a lecture can be. And that's where listening to a lecture a second or third time can help.
- You're going to be absent. You could ask a friend to record a class lecture if you're going to miss it. Sure, you could just copy someone's notes, but a recorded class lecture will make sure you don't miss important information.
- You want an audio archive of the class for studying purposes.
- If you're someone who loses notes and papers, then you might want to consider having an audio version available as a backup.
- For a broad variety of reasons, you can't write fast enough to keep up with the pace your professor is lecturing.
- You know you are the type of student who will listen to the recording and benefit from having it available to study.
- New voice-activated recorders are small and unobtrusive. They will not call attention to the fact that you are using a recording device.

Problems Using a Recorder

- Listening to recorded lectures takes time. The biggest downside of using recorded lecture notes is that it takes time to listen, sometimes another hour or two out of your day to scan through a lecture and compare the information to any notes you were able to take.
- Recording lectures often encourages poor listening. When you know everything is being recorded, you might tend to daydream or not pay full attention to all the information being presented.
- Recorders require batteries and might not work properly. You never know when your battery is going to die, or when the recorder didn't capture everything your professor said.
- You also miss out on any notes your professor writes on the board if you are not taking notes along with the recording.
- Another problem that sometimes occurs is the device fails to capture the professor's voice at a good volume.
- Some students do not want others to know they are using a recorder because they do not want to be singled out or identified as a student with a disability.