

# Reading Strategies

Reading for college courses is very different than reading for pleasure. The following strategies are recommended to assist you with textbook and scholarly reading material.



## Prepare for Success

### Choose Your Location Wisely

Find a comfortable and well lit area with few distractions and be sure to silence your phone.

### Preview the Reading Material

Look over chapter headings, subheadings, charts, diagrams, bolded words, summaries and questions. You will read more quickly if you know what to expect.

### Make Connections Before You Begin

What do you already know? How does this relate to what you've already learned in class?

## Reading Takes Time

Don't be tempted to rush through reading. Give yourself enough time to understand the material and take notes as you go.

Putting in the effort during your reading saves you time down the road. If you took sufficient notes and made an effort to summarize material the first time through, you have a head start on exam preparations.

## Tips for Active Reading

Take Notes - Use the headings and subheadings to create an outline and take notes as you read.

Read an entire section before stopping to take notes. This allows you to make sure you have the whole argument or main idea and prevents you from taking notes on every detail.

Summarize - After each section, write a summary of what you've just read. Include the main idea and 2-3 details. This is a way to immediately check for understanding and is the first step to committing your reading material to long term memory.

Take breaks as needed -If you notice your mind wandering, take a quick active break. Grab a snack, do a few jumping jacks, or change reading locations.

Review - Be sure to look over your notes to ensure they are complete and will be helpful to you at a later date. Discuss what you've learned with a friend or study group to check for understanding.

Ask for help - Academic Support Resources staff members are available for individual consultations to help you apply or practice your active reading strategies.