

Reading Strategies

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE READING IN COLLEGE

1. Start reading early – Instead of cramming to read four chapters the day before an exam, space your reading out and read each chapter as it corresponds with each class lecture.
2. Understand vocabulary – If it helps, write the definition on a note card and keep it nearby.
3. Take notes – Write about what you are reading!
4. Know when to stop – If you're exhausted, your brain won't retain the information.
5. Have a discussion buddy – After completing reading assignments, different people will sometimes have different understandings or interpretations of the material. Find someone from your class whom you can discuss reading assignments with!
6. Read for pleasure – The only real way to read faster and still absorb material is to read more. Since it can be difficult to find time to read while at college, try to read one or two short stories every week.

BE AN ACTIVE READER

- Underline or highlight key words and phrases as you read, but make sure to be selective—too much highlighting won't help.
- Identify and define any unfamiliar terms.
- Research shows that teaching is one of the most effective ways to learn so teach what you've learned from your reading to someone else!
- Take advantage of end of chapter discussion /review questions (if your textbook has them) to further review what you've just read.

CREATE AN EFFECTIVE READING ENVIRONMENT

- Limit distractions – Read in a quiet place, such as the library or your residence hall study room. Avoid things that will interrupt your concentration such as a TV or your cell phone.
- Make sure to have adequate lighting.
- Do not read when you are overly tired – This will greatly limit the amount of information you're able to retain.
- Take breaks – Give yourself a 5-minute break after every 30 minutes of reading to avoid fatigue.

READING FOR COMPREHENSION THE SQ3R METHOD

Survey

- Read main and sub-topic headings.
- Study the pictures, charts, diagrams, etc. and their captions.
- Scan through introductory and concluding paragraphs as well as the chapter summary.
- Think about what you already know of the topic.

Question

- Turn each title and/or subtitle into a question.
- To take notes, write questions in your notebook and, skip five lines between each question.

Read

- Look for answers to questions you first raised
- Read each subsection (the text under each subtitle) to find the answer to your questions.
- Note all underlined, italicized and bold printed words and phrases.
- Stop and re-read parts that are not clear, or mark those areas and return to them later.

Recite

- Recite out loud the answers to your questions. Pretend you are explaining the ideas to a study partner.
- Now, write the answers to your questions in your notebook.
- Make sure to write in your own words, not those of the author.

Review

- Stand back and look at the chapter as a whole.
- How do the ideas and facts you've learned from each subsection fit together?
- Review your notes to make sure they make sense to you.