

Reading Strategies for College Study

Activate prior knowledge by asking

- Why am I reading this?
- What is the text about?
- What do I already know about this topic (brainstorm)?
- What do I already know about the reliability/credibility of the author and/or source?
- What do I predict that the author will say?

Determine purpose by asking

- How does this section/topic fit into the syllabus, lecture, and other sources of prior information?
- How can I connect the topic with my prior knowledge and life experience?

Prioritize by asking

- What will be expected of me for discussion, tests, labs, etc.?
- What do I need to read and understand first?
- Can I practice flexible reading, and choose what to read closely, and what to skim (at least for now)?
- Can I use study questions and make my own that will help focus my reading?

Preview by asking

- How can I make use of the table of contents, boldface terms, subheadings, graphics, etc.?
- What are some of the main ideas stated in the first and last chapters and/or paragraphs?
- How do subheadings and subtopics fit into ideas stated in the first and last sections?
- How does the author organize the text: compare/contrast? problem/solution? cause/effect, etc.?
- Are there vocabulary lists and/or review questions at the end of the section? Has the instructor provided review questions? Can I use these to determine what is important?

Read interactively

- Predict: Form the "big picture" by anticipating the text's organization.
- Visualize: Picture the information (make a "movie" of the text).
- Annotate: Write marks, notes, questions, and connections in the margins of the text or on the text itself.
- Associate by asking: How does this new information fit with previous information? What details support main ideas? Is there overlap between lectures and the reading?
- Monitor by asking: Am I aware of my reading process? For example, how do I deal with new words (by continuing to read? by looking for contextual clues? by listing words to be looked up later?)? Do I need to switch strategies or reading rate?

Respond during and after reading by asking

- What is my reaction to the reading?
- What do I remember from the reading? How would I summarize the author's ideas?
- What do I need to make note of now, before I move on to something else?
- Now that I've read the reading, do I need to revise my knowledge and/or my judgments about other texts?