Active Reading Checklist

Use this handy checklist to see if you are an “Active Reader”. Select Yes or No as applicable.

Active Reading Strategies

1. I preview chapters before lectures.

2. I create chapter outlines.

3. I divide the chapter into manageable sections.

4. I write summaries in my own words after each section.

5. I highlight key concepts and main ideas.

6. I review definitions and key words.

7. I use note cards to write formulas and main ideas.

8. I use note cards to write out questions and answers.

9. I form a study group and we exchange summaries and possible test questions.

10. I practice teaching other members of my study team main concepts.

11. I use mind maps to create links and connections between concepts in a logical manner.

12. I read chapter summaries.

13. I review graphs, charts, pictures, and tables.


15. I compare reading notes with lecture notes.

16. I read sitting in a firm chair.
17. I read difficult material standing up or while taking notes at the board.
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

18. I make reading an active process by asking questions and staying alert.
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

19. I focus on main ideas, not individual words.
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

20. I stay focused by looking for examples that support main points.
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

Your Active Reading score is: [ ]

If your score totals at least 15 Yes answers, you are an active reader. If not, practice the strategies above until they become habits.