

ACTIVE READING STRATEGIES: 5 EASY STEPS

Presented by:

The Kortschak Center for Learning and
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WELCOME

- Welcome to the Active Reading Strategies Workshop. Please take some time to download the “Reading Assessment Handout” and the “How to Read a Textbook Handout” found in the link below.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify what areas you can improve in your own personal reading practices (Self Assessment)
- Getting to know your text
- Assigning purpose
- Skimming
- Active Reading



**1.ASSESS YOURSELF/
ASSESS YOUR READING
ENVIRONMENT**

A. ASSESS YOURSELF

- Take some time to complete the self-assessment you downloaded, after you answer the questions, reflect on what your current reading practices are and what you can be doing differently to improve your reading comprehension.

B. ASSESS YOUR READING ENVIRONMENT

- Do you listen to music?
- Do you have electronics or other objects that distract you?
- Are you reading at the end of the day or when you are most energized?
- Where is your reading space? Is it cluttered, noisy, messy?

2. GET TO KNOW THE TEXT

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: GETTING TO KNOW THE TEXT

- **Table of Contents**
- **Glossary**
- **Index**
- **References**

This will help you know the resources within the text to assist with reading comprehension and expand the way you read.

3. ASSIGN PURPOSE

ASSIGNING PURPOSE

- **WHY ARE YOU READING?**
 - To study for an exam
 - To write a paper
 - To prepare for class

4. SKIMMING

WHILE SKIMMING, LOOK FOR...

- **Major headings and subheadings to convey major points.**
- **Italicized words and phrases so that crucial new terms and definitions will stand out.**
- **Lists of points set off by numbers or paragraphs that begin with the phrases such as "The three most important factors . . . " etc.**
- **Redundancy or repetition.**

-Martha Maxwell

THE BASICS OF SKIMMING

A. First, read the title of the chapter or selection carefully.

Determine what clues it gives you as to what the selection is about. Watch for key words like "causes," "results," "effects," etc.,

B. Look carefully at the headings and other organizational clues.

Boldface headings and titles which are the obvious clues to the most important ideas. Don't focus too much on the little details (paragraphs, reading word by word etc.)


INTRO AND CONCLUSION

Reading the Intro and Conclusion helps you focus on the author's arguments.

STARTING BACKWARDS

If you are reading a textbook:

- Once you skim the material and read the intro and conclusion, go to the back of the text chapter and look at the chapter questions, this will help you look for the main ideas and assist you with assigning purpose to your reading



**5. TURN HEADINGS INTO
QUESTIONS AND TAKE
NOTES**

HEADINGS AND NOTES

Headings → Questions

- Turn the headings in the text into questions, this will help you think about the importance of that section and will assist with the organization of material.

Note Taking

- Once you assign questions to your headings and after you read sections of the text, summarize and write down from memory notes on the topic in your own words. This forces you to rehearse the information you just read.

SIMPLE TIPS

- Zoom in on text or increase font size to reduce eye strain.
- If you can't concentrate, take a walk and come back to it.
- Read with a dictionary on hand.
- Look away every so often and read in chunks of time.
- Practice: the more you read the better you'll become.

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

