

Reading a Textbook



Three Common Fallacies:

- X An OK way to read a textbook is to "curl up" on a chair, relax, and read.
- X You should not write in your book.
- X A highlighter is the best way to underline.



Our Goal:
*READ TO
REMEMBER!!*

Style



- ✓ Sit at a desk.
- ✓ Have a pen in hand.
- ✓ Write and underline in the text.
- ✓ Concentrate, uninterrupted, for 50 minutes; then stretch.

Survey the entire text

Why?

- To show you what the main topics are.
- To show you how the topics are arranged. (Can you skip a chapter and read it later?)
- To alert you to the difficulty level.
- To determine how familiar you are with the subject.

How?

- Look at the title, publication date, and author.
- Read the Table of Contents.
- Read the Preface/Introduction.
- Skim the first and last chapters.
- Read all of the chapter titles.
- Read the first & last paragraphs of each chapter, and glance at headings/subheadings.
- Look at available reading aids (e.g., glossary, index, appendix, references).

When?

- Before reading the first chapter and/or before attending your first class.

WHAT YOU DO BEFORE & AFTER
READING IS AS IMPORTANT AS
THE READING ITSELF!



Reading a Chapter



Survey & Question: Before You Read

Survey

- Read the title.
- Read the introduction (or first paragraph).
- Read the summary (or last paragraph).
- Read the headings/subheadings.
- Study all visual material.
- Look at **key terms**.

Question

- Why?
 - To enhance comprehension.
 - To motivate you; if your only goal is to do a "boring" assignment, you will not learn/remember much.
- How?
 - Turn headings/subheadings into questions.
 - Ask factual (who, what, when, etc.) questions.
 - Also ask interpretive questions (compare/contrast etc.).
- When?
 - As you survey the chapter.
 - You can continue this as you read the chapter.

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Remember:

If you read passively, you will forget over 50% of the important information you have read in 24 hours. If you **READ ACTIVELY**, you will remember 70% of what you have read after 2 months!



Reading a Chapter cont.



Read

- Before you read a section, try to answer the questions you have posed, and/or define key terms.
- If necessary, add more questions/important points, and circle key terms.
- Vary your reading rate (range from deep study to skim).
- Your goal: to avoid rereading difficult passages.
 - This slows you down and may increase frustration.
 - Reading the rest of the chapter may clarify it.

Recite

When?

- After reading each section.

Why?

- Helps you to organize and store information.

How?

- Orally:
 - Ask/answer your questions/definitions out loud.
 - Scan to locate answers, if necessary; do not reread.
- In writing:
 - Try mapping for difficult/confusing sections.
 - Make vocabulary/concept cards.

Review

When?

- At least 3 times per week.

Why?

- To further consolidate/associate/reduce.
- To commit to long-term memory.

How?

- Recite from the margins of previous chapters before reading the next one.
- Skip sections you know well.
- Review sessions become shorter and shorter.