

Reading Strategies: How to Read in College

In a college classroom, the professor expects that everyone has read the assigned material and completed all work prior to coming to class.

Before Reading

- Determine and state the purpose for reading.
- Plan your study session using time or point of reference (Read for 30 minutes or chapter X)
- Identify prior knowledge you bring to the topic and how it fits into a bigger picture
- Pay attention to the organization, vocabulary, and headings
- Read the summary at the end of the section to get an overview of the material
- Write down questions you will find the answers to while reading.
- Prepare to focus your attention

While Reading

- Actively read with comprehension and understanding as the goal.
- Annotate as you read to make the material yours by making connections in your own words, circling important vocabulary and making notes/questions in the margins.
- Mark areas in which you do not understand immediately and need to revisit
- Reread difficult parts and explain aloud in your own words.

After Reading

- Recite what you have learned aloud and explain the information in your own words. Read your questions, answers and notes in the book aloud.
- Summarize the information you read with notes, visual diagrams or audio summaries.
- Review the reading material within 24 hours to establish long-term memory by rereading your annotations.
- Review once a week to keep material familiar

Strategies to use when reading is challenging:

- Read it again, aloud or standing up and see if comprehension improves.
- Look up words you are unsure of in the glossary, dictionary or online.
- Approach reading one paragraph at a time looking for the author's main idea and the supporting details.