

Textbook Reading Strategies

Preview the Chapter

- Thumb through the pages and ask yourself what you already know about this topic
- Are there key terms or big, guiding questions at the beginning of the chapter?
- How will looking at the terms help you understand the chapter better?
- Are there questions throughout the chapter that will help guide your reading?
- Are key words defined in margin boxes in the chapter or at the end?
- Is there a chapter summary at the end?

Decide Your Purpose for Reading

Does the instructor cover all the important information in class via Power Points?

- Skim chapter objectives
- Get familiar with key terms
- Review the “big ideas”
- Read the chapter summary
- Jot down big ideas

Do you need to discuss information in class or write something in a discussion board?

- All of the above, plus:
 - Turn *big headings* into questions, write notes and answer in your own words
 - Jot short definitions of key words you don’t already know

Class PowerPoints are only an outline and/or test material comes from the book as well as lecture:

- All of the above, plus:
 - Turn *all headings* into questions and answer in your own words
 - Make sure your notes are answering the big, guiding questions at the beginning of the chapter
 - Stop at comprehension check questions throughout the text and at the end to make sure your notes are good enough to answer the questions

Pick a Notetaking Strategy

Turn Headings into Questions:

- Use the words why, what, or how in front of headings/sub-headings to turn them into questions
- Read to find your answer and write your answer in your own words
- Note key vocab words along the way
- If you can’t answer your question, make a note and ask someone else

Use the RAP Strategy:

- Read a chunk of text (a paragraph, a section – whatever you can manage)
- Ask yourself, “What was that about?”
- Paraphrase an answer by taking a note in your own words

Cornell Note Style – See handout

Genio App – Capture and Annotate

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General Textbook Reading Tips

- Review different styles of notetaking that might work for well for you:
- Break a large amount of reading into smaller chunks
- Stop and ask yourself along the way if you are understanding what you're reading
- If you can't put a term or concept in your own words, you don't understand it; look up the word, ask someone about the concept, watch a video to clarify, etc.
- If focus is a problem, do some exercise or physical activity before and during study time; physical activity changes brain chemicals that affect focus and attention
- Listen to your texts if reading is slow and choppy
- Ask Tina or others for more resources...