Text Reading Strategies

Ready?

Plan time before class to get the reading done.

Take an active stance when reading, use a pencil or pen instead of a highlighter.

Set?

Choose a productive time of day and a location with few distractions.

Skim the text before you begin reading to understand its organization and features.

Preview the text to get an idea for how long it is as well as the visual aids used.

Go!

Read so that you can answer the questions you and/or the instructor have posed.

Stop after each section to review key points and organize your thoughts.

After answering questions, lock in the information by text marking.

Repeat this process through each section of the reading.

Instant Replay!

Did the instructor give you a reading guide? If not, make up your own.

What do you already know and what would you like to know?

Before you put the book down, quickly look back over what you have read.

Reread the headings, look at your markings and margin summaries.

Flash Tip

Check out the library, the Reading Room in the Campus Center, the RITreat in the SAU or a quiet dorm lounge.

For a more detailed guide for previewing your reading, check out our Textbook Preview Worksheet on our website’s study toolkit at asc.rit.edu.

Delayed Replay!

Come back after a day or two.

Use your text markings to create notes or a mind map.

Create a flow-chart to show a process or use index cards for vocabulary or concepts.

Try to study in preparation for being tested by asking yourself possible test questions.

Finish!

Work with the information, and the tools you created to answer them.

Helpful Reminders

1. Use text aids and organization to help sort ideas.
2. Approach the reading with an alert, active mind to focus and ask better questions.
3. Using a pen or pencil instead of a highlighter allows you to write and use shapes to differentiate and organize the information.
4. Don’t just reread when studying, actively review your material.