

College Reading Strategies

Reading college-level texts can be a challenge. Use this 3-step approach to help you make the most of your reading time.

Before Reading

Build the big picture and identify your purpose.

Set up a productive environment. Be aware of lighting, seating, noise, location, and time of day.

Get to know the text. Skim the abstract, table of contents, chapter introduction/summary, headings, title, key terms, and/or related lecture notes.

Chunk the chapter into manageable sections. If too focused or overloaded, take a break. Decide if how the text is divided needs to be reorganized.

Define a purpose for reading. Set a high information ignition. Then, heading in a question. For example, the heading "Establishing Control" in a chapter about conducting scientific experiments. You can find an "Establishing Control" section.

During Reading

Think about the text. Stay focused by being active.

After Reading

Check for understanding.

