

Reading Strategies

Reading is an important activity that supports your learning. This resource outlines three strategies to make the most of your readings. Try them individually or as a holistic single strategy to help you stay focused, engaged, and motivated as you move through your readings.



Previewing

What?

Get a sense of the big picture and what to expect from the reading.

Why?

This prepares your brain to process this information by familiarizing yourself with the general content and structure.

How?

Scan through the reading to look at headings, images, bolded words, or the first line of each paragraph.

Questioning



What?

Create questions that the reading should answer for you.

Why?

This will help your focus and motivation because in searching for the answers you are giving yourself a reason to read.

How?

Turn keywords, charts, or images into questions to guide your reading.



Paraphrasing

What?

Start reading – BUT break down the reading into manageable portions by stopping regularly to paraphrase what you just read.

Why?

By processing the reading and regularly putting it in your own words you will avoid false starts, like re-reading the same sentence over and over. This will foster a deeper understanding of the content.

How?

After each paragraph, put the information in your own words (aloud or in writing). Move on to the next portion and paraphrase again, but include or link to information from the previous paragraph. Repeat!



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