Strategies for Effective Reading

Land acknowledgment

McGill is located on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Kanien’kehá:ka Nation, known as Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. The Kanien’kehá:ka, also known as the Keepers of the Eastern Door, are one of the nations that make up the Haudenosaunee Confederacy on Turtle Island/North America. Our presence on this land contributes to the dispossession and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples. Our goal is to promote learning and generate allyship with local Indigenous communities, by honouring and respecting the many nations removed from, as well as those still connected to this land. Throughout the workshop we encourage you to consider active reading strategies that best support your learning about the indigenous communities in Montreal. Consult Native Land, McGill Indigenous Initiatives’ The Land and Peoples, and Indigenous Education Resources to learn more.

Session description and outcomes

This one-hour workshop covers strategies to help you make the most of your reading. By taking a strategic and active approach to reading, you’ll boost your comprehension and use your time more effectively while reading as a learner.

By the end of this session, you will have had a chance to:

- Identify tips and techniques for more engaged reading
- Apply active reading strategies to digital and physical reading environments

Working definitions

Previewing is about getting a sense of the big picture, rather than just diving right in. Questioning is giving yourself a reason to read – a goal and a purpose to read, which should help spark your curiosity and keep you motivated through the work. Paraphrasing is putting the information you consume in your own words. Curation is collecting and combining readings in a way that creates new knowledge (Cohn 2021). Contextualization is understanding why the reading is the way it is in both content and form (Cohn 2021). Connection is bridging what you are reading with prior knowledge or experience (Cohn 2021). Creativity is generating independent thoughts or expressions that are different from what is literally written (Cohn 2021). Contemplation is understanding why you are reading (Cohn 2021).

Activities

This workshop will involve opportunities to share personal experiences with the group, individual reflection activities, and individual practices of applying a digital reading framework.

Your next steps

Following the session, reflect on the following questions:

- What is one active reading strategy you will implement this term to support your learning?
- How will you know if the strategy is working for you?
- Before or while you read, ask why the reading was assigned.
STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE READING

Space for your notes

Resources

Register for SKILLS21, McGill’s workshop-based skills development program for undergraduate students.

Consult the learning resources created by Teaching and Learning Services, particularly these resources on reading strategies.

Explore Stay on Track, a peer-to-peer program that enhances undergraduate students’ learning and wellness skills. Learn more about the three pathways available: reminders, coaching sessions, and study groups.

Visit Learner Supports from Student Accessibility & Achievement.

References


Contact information

For any questions about the workshop material or other related information, visit mcgill.ca/tls/students.