

Reading Stages

Before You Read:

- Think about, discuss, or list what you already know about this book or this topic
- Think about or discuss why you are reading and what you want to get from the book
- Look at the reading guides: titles, table of contents, supplemental information, glossary, index, number of pages, etc.

Begin Reading:

- Read quickly to preview. What is this text about? What does the author want you to learn from it? Look up any key words you don't know.

As You Read:

- Read slowly to learn. Mark main ideas and topic sentences.
- Look up essential vocabulary, but don't worry about non-essential vocabulary.
- Keep track of the author's points. If you are reading a text, note definitions, divisions, main ideas. If it is a narrative, keep track of people, places, times.
- You can use highlighters, underline, or make margin notes. Generally, keeping notes in the book is a good idea, unless:
 - the book does not belong to you
 - you want to coordinate your text notes with class lectures.
- If you keep a notebook, be sure that the notes are all together in a separate place. Don't forget to keep track of page and/or chapter numbers!
- Jot down questions as you go, or put ?? in the margin to remind yourself to go back. You can put bookmarks or stickies in to remind yourself of where your questions are.

After You Read:

- Summarize what you just read – out loud if possible; to your study partner if you have one!
- Write down your ideas about what you just read – or talk them through.
- Look for the answer to your questions. Asking for help is a good idea.