Active Reading

Most Active Readers:



If these characteristics don't sound like you, you have to be motivated to change your habits. Make a commitment to try some new techniques. You will be pleasantly surprised by the results.

Getting Started

- SET A GOAL FOR YOURSELF. Don't try to read 70 pages all at once. Break up the reading into 2-5 shorter sessions - for whatever time you think you can concentrate. If you feel your concentration slipping before your time is up, stop, take a break, and then read some more.
- 2. READ WITH A PURPOSE. One way to give yourself something to read FOR is to use the GRAPHIC ORGANIZER. You can use the same organizer to read a chapter, study or plan an essay.
- READ WITH A PEN OR HIGHLIGHTER and mark important terms, concepts, possible test questions etc.

How do you decide what to highlight?

	Definitions of terms
	Examples used to illustrate concepts
0	Experiments
	Names
	Dates
	Historical Events
	Principles
	Rules
0	Characteristics
0	Others depending on the subject

How do you MARK your textbook?

Step 1:

Read a paragraph or section *before* you underline anything. You may not be able to tell what's most important until you read the whole section to see how the ideas relate to each other.

Step 2:

In the margin, write key words or symbols that will serve as memory cues or call your attention to important information.

Step 3:

Use *your own words* when you make notes. Putting the author's words in to your own words helps to test your understanding and improves your chances of remembering.

Step 4:

Decide on your own system of symbols to indicate certain things. Use your symbols in all of your classes. Here are some commonly used symbols:



Step 5:

Underline or highlight words and phrases only, **NOT** whole sentences.

Step 6:

Review for class or a test by reciting from what you marked.

Step 7:

Illustrate processes or concepts with your own drawings, charts or diagrams to boost your memory.

4. REVIEW AND RECITE from your graphic organizer, notes or markings. Reviewing helps the information to stay in your memory. Reciting from your notes or markings provides another pathway into your memory; your auditory sense. Reciting is especially helpful for those who prefer auditory learning, but all can benefit from it.

Remember: The more **active** you are in the reading process the better your chance of learning and remembering what you read. **So**, don't just sit there, do something active!!!

(Adapted from: Bachman, Susan and Melinda Barth. Between Worlds. NY: Pearson Education, 2004. AND Kanar, Carol. The Confident Student. Boston: Houghtons Mifflin, 2001.)