

Reading for Academic Purposes - First Literacy

Pre-reading

- Think about what you already know.
- If the reading seems clearly too difficult, and you lack the appropriate background knowledge to understand it, read an easier text on the same subject or look up an easier article online. This is not cheating!
- Review all chapter headings and subheadings; turn subheadings into questions and read to answer the questions
- Glance over any pictures, charts or graphs in the section you'll be reading.
- Read any bold or italicized words and make sure you understand them. If not, look them up.
- Read the chapter summary first so you have an idea of the main point before you read. This is not cheating
- Review any end of chapter questions.

Active Reading

- Read the summary first. This is not cheating! It gives you a scaffold and main idea before you read.
- Look for answers to the questions you created in pre-reading.
- Read difficult passages aloud. This helps some readers increase comprehension.
- Use sketches, charts, illustrations to create visual representations of your understanding
- Have a conversation with the author and yourself as you read-use the “think aloud” protocol. Write questions, comments in the margins as though you are having a dialogue with the author.
- Read first time through **without highlighting**. Use the highlighter the second time around.

Reviewing

- Talk about what you read with a partner. Recount what you read and describe what you learned.
- Test yourself about the main concepts/facts to see if you understood them (index cards work well).
- Focus re-reading on sections where you are weakest.
- Chunk re-reading and review over time to retain information (Frequent retrieval moves information from short to long term memory).