

How to Be an Effective Reader of College-Level Texts / Hayden / Reading 5

Reading is like any skill. The more you practice, the better you get.

College classes generally require a LOT of reading. The amount is significant. So, you need to build stamina. Also, you need to manage your reading load and other assignments effectively.

When/Where/How?

- when you have energy and aren't too tired
- only for 30 minutes at a time unless you are really engrossed
- sitting up (not in bed or lying down)
- no background noise, if possible
- good light
- put the phone away and on silent
- close the laptop
- turn off the tv

Active Reading

- thinking before you read - what do you know about the topic? what do you hope to learn?
- preview the text - titles, subtitles, graphics, bolded words, margin boxes, etc.; ask yourself what you know about the topic and what you think the article might be about; are there questions you have to answer?
- highlight
- notes in the margin
- symbols
- underline
- color-code
- only the most important information
- take notes on separate paper
- read aloud - especially main ideas or concepts that you're having a hard time understanding
- check comprehension - during and after
 - o during - after a paragraph or page, stop and try to summarize what you just read to yourself aloud
 - o after - write or say a summary of what you just read

Don't look up every word. Try to get the gist from the context. If not knowing a word means you won't understand the text, look it up - in an English-English dictionary.

Resources:

- <https://www.brookhavencollege.edu/aboutbhc/readingtheappforlife/documents/reading-college-textbooks.pdf>
- <http://lsc.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Textbook-Reading-Systems.pdf>
- <https://www.brookhavencollege.edu/aboutbhc/readingtheappforlife/documents/making-sense-of-confusing-sentences.pdf>
- <https://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/academic-support/study-tips/reading-textbooks.shtml>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjXM0KrWoeY&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgVjmFSx7rg>

This handout is also available on the class website with clickable links: <https://www.carenhayden.com/reading-5>