



Reading Difficult Material

If there is a summary at the end of a chapter, read it.

Check the beginning and the end for leading questions and exercises

Choose a moderate amount of material to begin; a paragraph

Scan the section for titles, headings, sub-headings, and topic sentences to get its general idea; pay attention to graphs, charts, and diagrams

As you read, practice the "look-away method:"

1. Periodically look away from the text and ask yourself a stimulus question
3. Respond, or restate, in your own words
4. Make connections and associations, but don't use this exercise to memorize

Look up words

Look up words whose meanings are important to your understanding of the material, but you cannot discern from the context.

Read to the end

Do not get discouraged and stop reading.

Ideas can become clearer the more you read. When you finish reading, review to see what you have learned, and reread those ideas that are not clear.

Organize your notes by connecting ideas you choose into an outline or concept map. Pay attention to relationships between ideas.

Do not confine yourself to words!

Use representations, graphics, pictures, colors, even movement to visualize and connect ideas. Use whatever techniques work to help you understand

At this point, if you do not understand your reading, do not panic! Set it aside, and read it again the next day.

If necessary, repeat. This allows your brain to process the material, even while you sleep. This is referred to as distributed reading.

Re-read the section you have chosen with the framework (outline or concept map) Separate out what you do understand from what you do not.

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For more information and help reading difficult material visit Student Learning Services located in Room 110