SUCCESS CENTER: Planning for College Reading

Face it, there's more reading in college than in high school – and you need to actually do it! Fortunately, there are strategies that can help you become a more efficient reader.

- **Location:** Choose a place that helps you focus. Do you need background noise or the silence of a library? (Pro Tip: Your bed is not a productive place to read or complete assignments.)

- **Plan for completing reading assignments over several short periods** each day (15-30 minutes). Take breaks to move around. Avoid long reading sessions.

- **Mindset:** Be actively engaged with what you read.
  - ➢ Think of reading as a puzzle to solve.

- Download and/or print readings posted on Blackboard beforehand to avoid last minute technology problems if you prefer a hard copy.

- Decide how you will take notes.

  - ➢ Lists, concept maps, outlines, and flashcards are options.

  - ➢ **The Success Center** can provide note-taking strategies for all subjects.

- **Eliminate distractions:** Turn off *all* screens and technology alerts.

> **REMEMBER:**
>
> You are expected to read the text and understand it on your own. But if you have difficulty, seek help from your instructor, the Success Center, or a classmate.
>
> *Complete reading before class so that you can understand lectures and activities.*

BEFORE YOU READ:

Get to know your digital textbook. Does it focus on a specific reading, or can the reader skip and scan easily? Can you bookmark pages? Can you save your progress? If you follow a hyperlink, does it open a new window? Practice switching between pages and sections in your online textbook.

Use these strategies with both physical and digital texts.

- ➢ **Survey** the digital or hard copy textbook to see how it is organized. Start with the table of contents. What information is presented? Is there a glossary of terms?
- ➢ **Scan** the pages and for headings, key words or sentences to see what is in the section.
- ➢ **Re-read questions** provided by your instructor or those in the textbook; read the section or chapter summaries, and bold vocabulary words to identify the key points.
- ➢ **Imagine** you will have an exam over the assigned reading during the next class in order to activate deeper levels of learning once you begin reading.

Sources:
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