

WHILE YOU READ: Stay engaged with these strategies for learning, memorizing, and organizing information:

1. Read a short section (1-3 paragraphs). Look away from the book and **summarize what you read in your own words**. Ask yourself what the section was about. What are the most important points?

If you can't summarize main ideas, **review** the heading(s) and **scan** that section for key words.

- Online explanations may help clarify the information.
- Often the important words are verbs and nouns. Read the sentence without adjectives and adverbs.
- If you still have trouble identifying key points, mark it and ask your instructor or a tutor in the Success Center. Continue reading. This may also help you understand.

Reading textbooks on a screen can make it difficult to stay focused. But it can also include interactive technology that brings the information to life through hyperlinks and videos. It also provides more choices to help personalize learning. Some include highlighting, notetaking within the text, and audio to hear rather than read the text.

Ask your instructor or the Success Center how to highlight passages and take notes in the online textbook.

2. **Answer assigned or textbook questions as you read.** If none were provided, create your own. What possible test questions may be asked? or "Is this an important point?"

- **React** to the information. What is your opinion? Does it make sense?
- **Connect** the reading to your course or something you already know to help you recall it later.
- **Move** and/or **read aloud** if your mind wanders.



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3. **Write to Learn:** Sometimes reading *without* taking notes helps you get the big picture. However, taking notes and creating test questions helps **move information into long-term memory**. The Success Center has many note-taking strategies to share.

- **Use sticky notes** and symbols to mark your textbook and quickly locate important details, examples, or confusing concepts needing clarification.
- **Highlight very few points** - often only one phrase or sentence per paragraph. Notetaking is more effective.
- **Draw pictures** to give you visual cues and use **symbols** to bring attention to details.

Sources:

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