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| Stack of books vector image**Stay engaged with these** strategies for learning, memorizing, and organizing information:**Success Center****Reading to Learn** * Skim and scan your reading assignments beforehand to help you identify main ideas and concepts that will be discussed.
* Read learning objectives of the class/topic in the syllabus on Blackboard.
* Find a distraction-free place to read, set a timer for 15 minutes to check focus.
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| **WHILE YOU READ:** |
| 1. Begin with the conclusion. That might be a few lines or a few paragraphs depending on the text.
2. 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** section for key words.* Online explanations may help clarify the information.
* ResponsiveOften the important words are verbs and nouns.
* 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.

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| 1. **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.

*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 the Success Center or your instructor how to highlight passages in the online textbook** **Move** and/or **read aloud** if your mind wanders.
* **Change locations** to improve memorization of material.
1. **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 textbookand quickly locate important details, examples, or confusing concepts needing clarification.
* **Highlight very few points -** often only one phrase per paragraph. Notetaking is more effective.
* **Draw** **pictures** to give you visual cues and use **symbols** to bring attention to details.
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| 1. **Talk About It:** It may seem hard at first, but get in the habit of talking about what you read. The more you discuss the reading, the more you will understand.

Tutors at the Success Center are more than happy to be a thinking-partner. |
| **6. Annotate Your Text:** Write or draw images in the text.Use abbreviations and symbols (arrows and lines to show connections, < >, =, [ ] , \*, ?, and !!! show relationships or significance)Draw a box around grouped information.Create your own abbreviations and symbols for annotating texts. (eximp or ! = important)  |
| **7. See our Related Handouts*** ***Success Center Note Taking Strategies –*** [***Overview***](https://www.swic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SSNoteTakingOverviewGoldenrod.pdf)
* ***Success Center Reading Strategy –*** [***PQRST***](https://www.swic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SSReadingPQRSTtan.pdf)
* ***Success Center Note Taking -*** [***Cornell System***](https://www.swic.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SSNoteTakingCornellMethodGoldenrod.pdf)
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