Grad School Reading Strategies

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Reading #1
Brainteaser

THIS LITTLE CARD IS JUST AN EYE-CATCHER
ALWAYS IS THERE THAT REALIZE YOU HELP TO
ANOTHER WAY TO DO ALMOST ANYTHING,
IS IT TIME FIRST THE .READING INCLUDING
ALWAYS HARD TO DO SOMETHING A NEW WAY
HAVE YOU THAT NOW AGAIN THIS READ BUT
THE HANG OF IT! GETS EASIER, DOESN’T IT?
Goals

1. Study Cycle
2. Challenges
3. Reading faster
4. Skimming
5. Textbook Marking
6. SQ4R
7. Chunking
8. Research Articles
Phase 1
Preview material to be covered in class… before class

Phase 2
Go to class! Listen actively, take notes, and participate in class.

Phase 3
Review and process class notes as soon after class as possible.

Phase 4
Use intense study sessions.

The Study Cycle

Adapted from Saundra Y. McGuire, Center for Academic Success, Louisiana State University
What are the challenges of reading in Grad School?

- Volume
- Primary Sources
- Complexity
- Jargon
How can you deal with the volume of reading?

- Do NOT read every word on every page
- Study Groups
- Convert PDFs to MP3s
- Read faster
How can you read faster?

- Reduce distractions
- Skim or scan
- Eliminate regressions
- Use a pointer
- Read for 25 mins, followed by 5 min break
- Read during daytime
Skimming

- Read the title
  - What do I already know?
  - What do I want to get out of this?
- Read the first and last paragraphs
  - What is the author’s thesis or argument?
- Read the first and last sentence of each paragraph
  - What is the main idea?
  - Look for unfamiliar terminology or concepts
- Look for signposts
  - The most significant contribution is...
  - For the purpose of this experiment, the definition is...
Why should you mark your textbook?

**Underlining or highlighting**

- Will **not** lower buyback price of book!
- Read first, then **underline** or highlight the main idea
- Mark less than 20% of the reading passage

**Annotation**

- Write a word or phrase next to each paragraph to remind you of the main idea.
Americans exchange around one billion colds a year, an average of two or three for every adult. Infectious cold germs can live for hours in the environment, so take precautions. To avoid contamination, wash your hands frequently to keep from transferring germs to your eyes, mouth and nose. Drink more water. The winter air dries your nose and throat and allows viruses to attach. Relax and network with friends because a healthy mind strengthens the immune system.

What do you already know about this object?

What can you tell from reading the package?

What do you think you will learn if you open it?

What did you learn?
SQ4R for Textbooks

Survey
Question
Read
Recite
Record Notes
Review
Survey

- Skim the introduction and summary
- Read the headings
- Look at the pictures and graphics
- Estimate how long it will take to read
Question

Turn all the headings and subheadings into questions

Read

Read each section with the intention of answering the question

Recite

Look away from the passage and answer the question in your words.

Record Notes

Write down your answer to the question

Review

Immediately after completing the reading, review your notes.
Practice SQ4R

- Friends Chapter
Chunking for Essays

- Use on essays without headings
- As you read, make a line in the margin each time the author changes topics
- After you complete the reading, go back and write a word or phrase in between each line to remind you of the topic in each section.
Practice Chunking

- A Very Pricey Pineapple reading
Research Articles

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Methods/Observations/Procedure
- Results
- Conclusion/Discussion
- References
Research Articles

Do **Not** read first page to last page.

1. Start with the **Abstract**.
2. Read the **Introduction**
3. **Skim** the **Conclusion**
4. Read the **Methods** section, highlight, and critique.
5. Read the **Results** section. Don’t get bogged down in the details.
6. Read the **Conclusion** section again.
7. Skim the **whole article**.
Research Articles

Finally, take notes on the article.

Use a Research Article Summary sheet to write notes about the research article. The summary sheet will provide a quick reference to the study and will help you avoid plagiarism.

Evernote

Zotero
Questions?
EVOKER for Literature
Fiction, essays, drama, poems

- Explore
- Vocabulary
- Oral Reading
- Key Ideas
- Evaluate
- Recapitulate
Explore
Read the selection silently to yourself.
Mark any unknown words or vocabulary

Vocabulary
Look up any words you did not understand

Oral Reading
Read the selection again out loud with expression

Key Ideas
Identify the key ideas, including the theme of the passage

Evaluate
Evaluate the key ideas

Recapitulate
Read the passage one more time for your own pleasure