

Three Steps for Effective Active Reading



Below is a strategy to help manage your readings. Following these steps is helpful ...

- when taking more than one course at a time
- when 'life just gets in the way' of keeping up with the required readings in a course
- to comprehend the information of the readings
- to align the content of the readings with your course and/or assignments.



Step One - Contextualizing:

- Read the Table of Contents
- Identify how your section of reading is contextualized with the other topics
- Establishing the context helps you understand how your topic 'fits' with the bigger picture, which leads to better understanding.

Step Two - Skimming:

- Read the first two to three paragraphs and the last two to three paragraphs of each chapter. This gives you the
 - i) purpose of the chapter
 - ii) what the main topic is and the supporting topics
 - iii) in the closing paragraphs, you establish the main point(s) made in the chapter.

Step Three - Examine: On a separate piece of paper or in a Word document,

- in point form note the goal(s) or main theme (include the page numbers)
- make connections of the goals/themes to your course and/or assignment
- rephrase the conclusion, we remember better when we put ideas and concepts into our own words.