

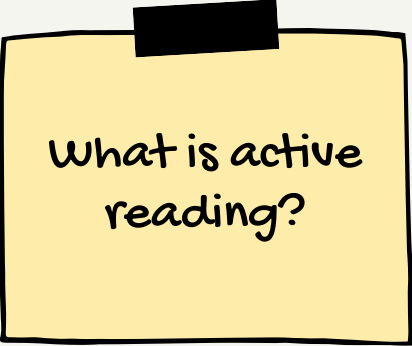
UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

Active Reading



Infographic guide adapted from: Writer's Resource Lab. (2016). *Active reading* [Handout]. University Writing Center, CSULB.


OVERVIEW



What is active reading?

Academic reading is not a passive activity. It requires purposeful and active engagement with the text. In order to fully absorb and understand densely written material, **you must read actively** by taking steps to understand a text before, during, and after your full reading of it.

You should develop your own personal active reading process, one that works best for you. The following slides include some suggestions.

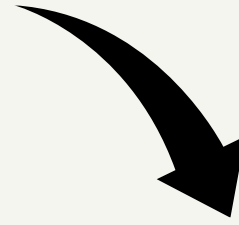


Steps for active reading?

ACTIVE READING STEPS

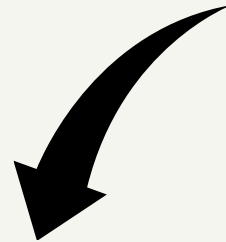
Step 1: Pre-Reading

Preview or scan the text before reading it entirely.



Step 2: Reading

Actively interact with the text while reading.



Step 3: Review & Reflect.

Think about the material after reading the text fully.



Step 1: Pre-Reading

1. Author or Publisher

Consider who wrote or published the information and whether they're trustworthy.

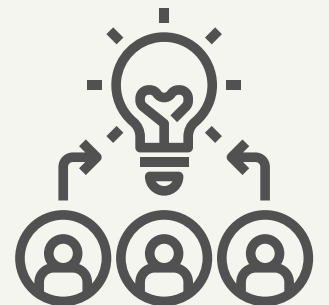


2. Review: Title, Author and Headings

Then look for words and phrases in **bold**, underline or italics. Glance briefly at charts, graphs, or other visuals.

3. Predict or Infer

Try to predict what the main point might be, as well as the author's purpose and biases.



4. Form Questions

Form questions about the topic based on headings. You can then try to answer these questions during your reading.

Step 2: Reading

1. Read Slowly

Think about what you are reading to interact with the text.



2. Annotate

Write down any thoughts or questions that come to you and try to answer them.

3. Predict or Infer

Try to predict what the main point, purpose, and biases might be.



Step 2: Reading Cont'd

4. Annotate Words/Ideas That Seem Difficult Or New

Highlight, underline, or circle words and ideas that seem difficult or are new to you. Try rereading the text for comprehension, search online or continue reading, and then come back to the annotation.

5. Summarize Each Body Paragraph Or Section

Even three- or four-word summaries will help you remember what you read and make it easy for you to find a particular section again later on.

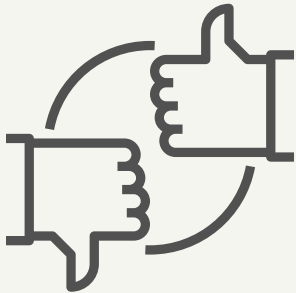
6. Answer Questions From The Pre-Reading

Do they still seem relevant? Do you have new questions that require further reading or thought?

Step 3: Review & Reflect

1. Write An Objective Summary

Summarize the main points in your own words. Do NOT include your opinion.



2. Write An Evaluation

Add an evaluation section in which you evaluate the author's argument, effectiveness, or bias.

3. Review Your Annotations

Review any annotations or markings made. Then try to put everything together and draw conclusions about the text.



4. Make Connections

Connect ideas within the text as well as other class readings or your personal experience.

Conclusion

The **academic reading** process begins before you read the text and continues after reading. This helps ensure that you thoughtfully consider the reading and try to **connect** it with things outside the text, rather than simply reading the words on the page.

It may seem that this active reading process takes longer than passively reading, and, indeed, it does. However, reading actively helps you get more out of the text and, in turn, more out of your time. For example, if you spend fifteen minutes passively reading a chapter, you probably won't comprehend and remember many of the important points. If you read it actively in, say, thirty minutes, however, you will be more likely to fully understand and be able to **recall** what you have read.

Active reading helps you make better use of your reading time while improving your **comprehension** of the material.