

Reading Comprehension:

Adapted from Motivation and Learning Strategies for College Success, Dembo (2008).

No matter how interesting a particular subject may be, textbook reading is not very exciting. So, it's not surprising to learn that many students report thinking about everything other than the topic they should be focusing on when trying to read for their courses. To improve reading comprehension and memory retention, use the four steps below:

Step 1: Set reading goals- Decide ahead of time how long you plan to read and how many pages/chapters will be completed. The most important thing to remember when setting any goal is to be realistic. For example, setting a goal to read 6 chapters in one night may not be realistic. Reading goals need to be more attainable and should factor in reading breaks.

- o I will read 10 pages before I play video games.
 - o I will read for 15 minutes in my PSYC book and 15 minutes in my HIST book.
 - o I will read one chapter before dinner and one chapter after dinner.
- **Step 2: Skim the chapter-** Get an idea of heading topics and become familiar with different learning tools in each chapter such as: bold or italic print, definitions in the margins, chapter summaries and questions.
 - **Step 3: Give reading a purpose-** Be an active reader by annotating your text (highlighting, circling, underlining or writing in the margins), taking notes as you read or turning chapter headings into questions. Active reading techniques will enhance your ability to concentrate, add memory and produce study materials.
 - o For example, consider turning the chapter heading, "*Financial Forecasting*" into questions:
 - What is financial forecasting?
It is a fiscal management tool to estimate info based on past, current and projected financial conditions.
 - How does financial forecasting help?
It identifies revenue and expenditure trends that could affect budgeting, planning and future growth.
 - What are the types of forecasting?
 1. Qualitative
 2. Market research
 3. Panel consensus
 4. Historical analogy
 - **Step 4: Review after reading a chapter-** Test reading comprehension by trying to answer the summary questions at the end of the chapter or try to summarize the chapter verbally or in writing. If you are unable to summarize the chapter or answer the chapter questions, you will need to re-read the chapter for clarity.