

APSU Writing Center
Active Reading Strategies

What is Active Reading?

- Active reading is a process that helps you engage deeply with a text, allowing you to fully understand and retain the information you are reading.

Strategies for Active Reading

Pre-Reading

- Before diving into the text, take a few moments to preview it.
 - Skim the title and look over visuals like graphics and charts.
- This helps you grasp the overall context and anticipate key themes in the text.

Questioning

- As you read, ask yourself these questions to stay focused:
 - What is the main argument of the text?
 - What evidence supports this argument?
 - Are there any biases or assumptions?
- These questions guide you through the text and keep you actively engaged.

Highlighting & Summarizing

- While reading, highlight key points and takeaways.
 - Try to summarize each paragraph into one or two sentences.
 - These summaries will help when reviewing for exams or assignments.

Writing in the Margins

- Make notes in the margins to summarize ideas or jot down questions.
 - Did the text appeal to your emotions?
 - Did any part of it stand out?
 - Engage with the text by asking yourself why.

Writing Down Difficult Words

- If you come across unfamiliar words, circle them or write them down.
 - Look them up immediately or after reading to fully understand their meanings.

Reflective Writing

- After reading, reflect on what you found most interesting or important.
 - Spend a few minutes writing down any lingering thoughts, questions, or confusions.
 - Then, write a short paragraph summarizing what you just read.

Re-Reading

- Re-reading can reveal new insights or help clarify confusing points.
 - Don't hesitate to revisit the text, especially for difficult sections.

Connecting to Prior Knowledge

- Relating the new material to things you already know can deepen your understanding.
 - How does this text connect to what you've previously learned in class or in other readings?
 - Are there real-world applications of the concepts presented?

Discussing with Others

- After reading, consider discussing the text with classmates, tutors, or professors.
 - What are others' interpretations of the text?
 - Are there points of confusion you could clarify together?



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References

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