

Pre-reading Strategies

Purposes:

- Predict what the text will be about
- Predict the writer's purpose
- Relate the text to one's prior knowledge to make it more familiar and easier to understand

Strategies:

- **Establishing purpose for reading:** Define why you are reading the text. (This determines the reading strategy. For example, if you are exploring or reviewing, you might skim a document. If you're searching for information, you might scan for a particular word.)
- **Previewing** (articles or textbooks): Looking at the title, chapter headings, sub-headings, captions, pictures, graphics, print, index, or anything else that catches the eye to predict what the text will be about.

This also includes the date of publication, name of the writer and journal to see how updated the article is and to learn about the subject-area.

- **Skimming:** Running your eyes very quickly over large chunks of text to quickly identify the main ideas of a text, without actually reading the text in total. Skimming is useful when you want to see if an article may be of interest in your research. It also helps to identify quickly the part(s) of the text that contains the information you need.

Skimming can be done using some or all of the following techniques:

- read the first paragraph
 - read the last paragraph
 - read the first sentence(s) of each paragraph
 - read the last sentence(s) of each paragraph.
 - look for and mark transitional words, phrases or paragraphs that change the topic.
- **Scanning:** Moving your eyes quickly down the page to find specific pieces of information

During-reading strategies

Purpose:

- To monitor comprehension and acquire strategies to improve understanding.

Strategies

- Give complete attention to the reading task
- Check own understanding constantly
- Guess meanings of unfamiliar words from the context
- Ask questions and look for answers in the text while reading
- Examine the text in light of predictions made before and while reading and evaluate the predictions.
- Annotate the text: highlight, summarize main ideas and respond to the content (agree, protest) in the margins. Mark places that you find unclear and that require revision.

Post-reading strategies:

Purpose:

- Review understanding of text
- Relate new ideas to background/prior knowledge
- Revisit the text to clarify and extend meanings
- Revise your thinking
- Apply the information to other texts and disciplines

Strategies:

- Summarize and paraphrase the major ideas
- Think about the personal connection you can make to the material.
- Make responsible interpretations and criticisms of ideas from the text

Apply ideas in the text to other situations, extending the ideas to broader perspectives.

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