

Tips for reading college textbooks

1. **Be an active reader! These techniques can keep you from going on autopilot, and help you to comprehend and remember more of what you read. Try one of these strategies:**

- Keep a pen in hand, take notes, write questions, jot lists
- Highlight important information in the text
- Talk out loud: After each section try to recite the main points
- Use study tools: write a summary, make note cards, etc.
- Quiz yourself: after reading try to recall the important info

2. **Other tips:**

- Know what you want to learn by reading this section
- Be inquisitive, try to get interested and involved in the material
- Relate new material to what you already know
- Use your senses try to visualize what you are reading about.
- Stop after each paragraph or section you read to make sure you understand it. This will save you time in the long run.
- If material is very technical plan to read it more slowly
- Make a list of unfamiliar words as you read

3. **Use an organized reading plan such as SQ4R:**

Survey: Read over the introduction, title, headings, subheadings, vocab words, charts, and picture captions, etc.

Question: Create questions to answer as you read. You might create a question for each heading or subheading, etc. You can make a list of these questions to use for review.

Read: Read each section, looking for the answer to your questions.

Record: Take notes on the main points and supporting details.

Recite: After reading each section, test yourself by trying to recite the main points that you have just read. Try to use complete thoughts.

Review: Review the material that you have recorded. Survey the chapter again, asking yourself the questions you had created and reciting the answers.

For more ideas see the links on the ALC's website or make an appointment with the graduate assistant in Centennial Hall Room 222.