

## 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.**