

Reading a Textbook

Why Reading a Textbook Matters	• Classes are often a supplement to the textbook • Instructors expect you to do some learning on your own • Instructors may not review or explain everything that is read for homework • Readings and ideas from lower level courses will often be used as the building blocks for more complex concepts • Reading successfully leads to successful writing • Reading involves thinking
Some Tips for Reading a Textbook 	• Don't read straight through the chapter. Do some investigation first. • Check out chapter review questions prior to reading • Skim for headings, subheadings, terms and definitions, images, captions, interactive content, and structure of chapter • Examine introductions and conclusions to the chapter since they often introduce and summarize the main ideas • Read for big ideas, which can often be identified by bolded content or section headings, and key details, which the questions at the conclusion of the chapter often highlight • Take notes whether your textbook is physical or online (see How to Interact with Your Textbook below) • Read the textbook once but take good notes which should be reviewed several times • Check out our handout on Active Study Strategies since reading your notes is not an active study technique
How to Interact with Your Textbook	• Take notes. Using a computer will work, though handwriting notes has been proven to improve understanding and help students remember more information. Remember, you can always type your notes later if you prefer that format. (See our handout on Notetaking for more tips.) • Code the text by underlining, circling, and highlighting specific ideas, definitions, and ideas. <u>Highlighting is not active reading</u>, so make sure that you are engaging in active reading techniques. • Use different colors to provide a quick reference for definitions, key details, and individuals who you will need to recall later • Make notes in the margins to assist with recall • Use sticky notes and consider using different colors for definitions, key details, and other information • Think aloud after each section you read and embrace the ability to summarize the material aloud to ensure that you understand the main ideas • Conduct a Google image search using terms like "marking a textbook" or "active reading" to find excellent examples of how to mark up a textbook using active reading techniques

Works Consulted

Benefits of Handwritten Input for Students Learning Algebra Equation Solving (Yang and Koedinger); Study Right (<https://www.studyright.net/blog/4-steps-to-reading-a-textbook-quickly-and-effectively/>)