

# READING COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

## KNOW YOUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Know what you will need to do with the information you gather from this reading assignment. Also consider what you already know about the topic, and what you want to learn about it.

## PREVIEW THE TEXT AND BREAK THE READING INTO MANAGABLE CHUNKS

Note things like headings, diagrams, pictures, bold or italicized words, summaries, and key questions. Make predictions about what the main concepts will be. Also, break up the reading into short chunks and take short breaks throughout. This improves focus and retention.

## SELF-MONITOR

If you realize your attention is drifting away from the reading, stop and consider why. Do you need a break? A more active way of engaging with the reading? Do you need a change of environment, with more or less background noise? Before resuming, summarize the last thing you remember and start reading from there.

## ANNOTATE AND SUMMARIZE

Note key ideas and major points. unfamiliar words, unclear information, key words/phrases, important info, and connections to previous knowledge. After reading small sections of the text, summarize the main point and 2-3 key details in your own words.

## SELF-CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Discuss what you took from the text with your peers and see how it compares. If there are big differences, go back to the text and see if you can account for the discrepancies. Are there multiple answers? Is the language unclear? Is there a gap in your knowledge of the subject?

## SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Discuss what you learned with a classmate, friend, or family member. Do a brain dump: write down everything you remember from the reading in five minutes. Identify the important concepts and create a concept map to illustrate what you learned.

## INVESTIGATE FURTHER

If anything is still unclear, ask your professor for clarification, or look at other texts, videos, or study guides on the topic. Visit ACE and get help from an academic mentor on the subject.

## SELF-TEST

Create flashcards or an outline of main concepts or terms, and use these to test yourself on how much you remember and can explain correctly.