



### Before Reading

- Give a cursory look at the material to pick up on main ideas and how the writing is structured by using skimming and scanning techniques.
- Set a purpose for your reading. What in particular are you looking for?
  - **Why?** Having a purpose will allow you to focus on what matters and get through the reading more quickly.
  - **How?** Look at the syllabus to see what topic this reading is for; plan what information may be important for upcoming assignments, tests, or essays; look for information that relates directly to what you've been learning in class
- Find a productive study space for focusing on your reading.

### During Reading

- Annotate and highlight the text for important points.
- Synthesize what you are reading along the way, by taking separate notes and/or writing in the margins.
- Keep track of and write down questions you have while reading.
- Write down and look up unfamiliar vocabulary.
- Help your focus by reading the text aloud or following along as you listen to an audio version of the text.
- Slow down. Reading difficult texts takes more time than reading other kinds of writing.

### After Reading

- Explain what the text taught you with specific ideas and examples. This will really help your comprehension of the text.
- If you have time, give the text a second read.
- If the book has questions at the end of chapters to check your understanding, take time to answer them.
- Seek help!
  - Discuss the reading with friends in the class.
  - Go to office hours to gain a better understanding of what made this piece important to read and why it was chosen by your professor.

Sources:

<https://ctl.byu.edu/tip/five-keys-helping-students-read-difficult-texts>

<https://www.revolutionprep.com/blog/8-strategies-for-reading-difficult-material/>