Reading Strategies
Contributor: UWC Staff

Reading Process
Reading, like writing, is a process with three major phases: previewing, reading, and reviewing. Participating in all three stages of the reading process can help you engage with and retain the information you read.

Previewing
Before you start reading, preview your text.

- Consider what you already know about the topic.
- Look for
  1. Headers
  2. Bolded words
  3. Boxes or pull-outs
  4. Quotes
- Write out questions

Reading
While you’re reading, actively engage with the text (don’t just let your eyes watch the words go by).

- Take notes in the margins or on sticky notes
- Read for responses to your preview questions

Reviewing
After you read a text, you should review what you’ve just read to engage with what you’ve learned. Consider...

- What you liked
- Where you disagreed or wanted to challenge the text
- What was confusing and why
- Which of your questions were answered and which still remain
What to Read For
While these aren’t the only things you can or should focus on while reading, many of the following questions can help you engage with and think critically about what you’re reading.

Purpose
⇒ Determine what information you expect to learn by reading your text
⇒ What do you think the author wanted you to take from this? Why?
⇒ How does this text reinforce or illustrate a theme or goal from the class?

Audience
⇒ How did you react to the text? Why?
⇒ Who was this text written for? How do you know?

Context
⇒ Why was this text written?
⇒ What is this text responding to?

Evidence
⇒ How convincing was the argument?
⇒ What kind of evidence did the author use?

Style
⇒ How was language used to present the argument?

Annotation Strategies
Annotation is recording your interactions with the text or image as you read. Annotation will help you avoid having to reread sections of the text.

You can use a variety of methods to accomplish this, but key to effectively using this strategy is explaining why a particular part of the text engaged you.

- Circle parts of the text you don’t understand or have questions about
- Highlight examples or data
- Explain where you disagree or agree