Reading Strategies

Reading strategies include things such as previewing a text before reading, using context clues to help you figure out the meaning of words, summarizing what has been read, and asking questions about the text. All these strategies help you better understand the text you are reading.

Benefits of Reading Strategies

Reading strategies can help you understand information that is not explicitly stated in a text, boost your comprehension of text, and provide a framework for making connections between the text and your prior knowledge. By knowing and using reading strategies, you will more likely remember what you've read and make connections to other texts you've read. You will find yourself using these strategies for a variety of texts, giving you the confidence to tackle any reading assignment.

Chunking:

Chunking is a strategy you can use to help break up the reading material into manageable sections that will help you have a better understanding of the material. Here is how to do it:

1. Look for natural breaks within the text, like subheadings or visual breaks. The subheadings or other notations may tell you what each section is about.

2. Put a line between each paragraph and number the paragraphs.

3. Circle/highlight important words as you read.

4. Write the main ideas of each paragraph in the margin.

Annotating:

Annotating a text links your thoughts to the text as you read. Marking up a paper with all your thoughts, comments, and questions will help you engage with your reading material. Here are some things to jot down while you read:

- Summarize key points in your own words

- Circle important words and concepts

- Ask questions in margins

- Write comments in the margins, such as where you agree or disagree with the author.

- Highlight or underline key ideas. However, be careful not to get carried away. Otherwise, you have simply made a white page into a yellow page.

- Draw symbols or pictures to help you recollect information of the text

SQ3R:

Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review (SQ3R) is a way to think about what you are reading as you read. Here are the steps:

1. Survey: Collect the information required to focus and put together goals.

2. Question: Help your mind capture and strength.

3. Read: Fill in the details throughout the mental shapes you're comfortable with.

4. Recite: Retrain your thoughts and learn as you read.

5. Review: Process your organization and start building memory.

Muscle Reading:

This technique will help you find the main idea of a text and remember it. Most of us only remember the beginning and ending of a text. This strategy will help you remember the stuff in between as well as the stuff from the beginning and ending. This is done in three phases:

Phases 1: Before you read

- Preview
- Outline
- Question

Phase 2: While you read

- Read
- Underline
- Answer

Phase 3: After you read

- Recite
- Review
- Review again

For more information about this strategy, see https://andersonuniversity.edu/sites/default/files/student-success/muscle-reading.pdf.