

# Active Reading

**1. If possible, know the question(s) you need to answer before you start reading. Some examples could be:**

- a. A study guide.
- b. A practice quiz.
- c. Lecture notes.
- d. Assignment question(s) for an essay.

**Why?** With questions already in mind, you will be more likely to pick up on relevant information when you see it during your reading.

**2. Scan chapter titles, section titles, section summaries, and anything else in a large or bold font.**

**Why?** If it's being emphasized, it's probably important. Also, creating this mental outline beforehand is a quick way to help you make better sense of the details later on.

**3. Write while you read.**

- a. Highlight if it's an exact definition for a vocabulary word or a direct quote that you want to include in your writing later on.
- b. Write in the margins or on a separate piece of paper. Some things you can write are:
  - i. Summaries of main ideas in your own words.
  - ii. Key words that will help you recall the details later on.
  - iii. Questions that you have about the text.
- c. Make sure to use bookmarks or write down the page number.

**Why?** Interacting with the reading will help you to remember it. It can make it easier to locate relevant information later on, and it also gives you a head start on answering any questions that your professor has given you that are connected to the reading assignment.

For more active reading tips, copy and paste the link to Princeton University's Active Reading Strategies page <https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/active-reading-strategies>

This video also delivers a lot of useful active reading tips with a casual, relatable tone. I highly recommend Thomas Franks's other YouTube videos geared towards tips for academic success.