FCS Academic Support & Resource Centre

Quick Tips on Reading

You are tasked with a long reading. How do you begin? Where do you start?

Feeling overwhelmed by 40+ pages?
Completely understandable! Here's where to start: Flip through the pages and get an *overall sense* of the document. Read the *introductory paragraphs* and the *concluding paragraphs*. Pick up a few key words and highlight main points. From there, you should be able to *identify the sections* of the textbook you want to spend more time on.

Having a difficult time remembering what you just read? We've been there! This might help...

Shake off the guilt or frustration tied with forgetting what you just read. At least you have *identified* some gaps in your knowledge! The next time you revisit those readings, try jotting down some key points to jog your memory. If you're a visual learner, draw a quick concept map after you've finished reading to reinforce the relationships between key concepts.

Do you find yourself highlighting everything you read? Try this...

It's difficult to know what's important if you're highlighting as you read. So you might want to read a few paragraphs or a section of the text first, then go back and highlight key *information*. If you're reading to look for specific details or to answer a question, only highlight those points that are *relevant* and will answer those questions. And one last point, don't just highlight, you can underline, circle or star things too. Try creating your own reading style (i.e. highlight the key points and underline the supporting points).

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