

## **Reading Strategies**

### ***Before Reading: Find a purpose***

- ✓ **Survey** the text: What is the shape of the reading? What are the chapters, sections, and headings?
- ✓ **Measure** the reading: how long will it take you?
- ✓ **Anticipate**: what is this reading about? Find out more about the text or the author to anticipate what they will be arguing or discussing in this piece.
- ✓ **Contextualize**: how does it relate to class discussions, other readings or assignments?
- ✓ **Find a purpose** for your reading: what will you learn, and why?

### ***While Reading: Read actively***

- ✓ Find somewhere quiet and comfortable – but not too comfortable!
- ✓ Use the whole book (index, glossary, table of contents) to clarify your reading.
- ✓ Write while you read: jot down key terms and topics in the margins.
- ✓ Highlight – but do this actively! Highlight keywords, not whole sentences or paragraphs.
- ✓ Use different colors to organize your notes and highlighting.
- ✓ Draw a graphic organizer to capture the ideas in the text.
- ✓ Outline the argument of the reading.
- ✓ Put it into your own words: paraphrase or summarize paragraphs or sections as you read.
- ✓ Write out specific questions to take to your professor or Teaching Fellows.
- ✓ Use a dictionary on your phone to look up unknown words as you go – but don't get bogged down in this!
- ✓ Make connections with other readings or class discussions.
- ✓ Create test or essay questions based on what you are reading; use index cards.

### ***After Reading: Summarize & Review***

- ✓ Summarize it! What did you just learn? What was the main argument of the piece?
- ✓ Write it down: summarize the reading in a few sentences.
- ✓ Talk it out with a friend or parent.
- ✓ Re-read your margin notes or highlights.
- ✓ Review: create flash cards to review information
- ✓ Reward yourself for readings completed!

For more support with reading and other study skills, visit the Study Mentors.  
Make an appointment on StudyHub on the CTL website,  
call us at 3351, or stop in to visit us on the second floor of the library.