

TRIO

Does your mind ever wander when you are reading a textbook?

Do you sometimes miss information that's important? Do you often forget what you just read?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to work on your reading skills.

To do well in your classes, you must be able to understand and remember the information you read.

Get in the practice of using the SURVEY-READ-REVIEW process.



1. Survey. Before you read, briefly look at each page of the assigned reading to get a quick overview. Read only the title, headings, and everything in **bold** and *italic* print. Look at pictures, graphs, and charts. Then read the introduction, summary, and review questions. Now you have a general background of what you will be reading and how the information is organized.

This may seem like a lot of work. It is *more effective* than passively reading the text and not retaining the information; it is *less work* than re-reading what you've already read and trying to cram before an exam.

2. Read. For better comprehension, treat your book like a tool. Before you begin reading a section, turn each heading into a question. For example, if the heading is, "The Poison Dart Frog: A deadly creature", your question would be "What makes this creature deadly?". Keep this question in mind as you read the section.

Practice active reading. Take notes as you read, it keeps you focused and engaged. Highlight and underline, but only for important points. Write summaries, main ideas, and questions you still have in the margins or on sticky notes if you don't own the book. For more difficult readings, create an outline, table of contents and a glossary of vocabulary words. You can also try reading out loud.



3. Review. When you are finished reading each section, ask yourself what you just read. Explain it out loud in your own words. Look at each section of the reading again; can you answer the heading you made into a question? Look over the notes you took, review the main points and make sure you understand them. Answer the review questions in the book or make up your own. Review your notes often- before class, once a week, and more in depth before exams.



EXERCISE ONE: Watch the brief videos below and jot down some points that stand out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5Mz4nwcIWc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01UYRiyWtC0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziofH7N8ZOE>

What overlapping concepts did you hear in these videos?

Which of the tips mentioned in the videos will you try?

Make a commitment to practice the tips you chose **for two weeks** then see if you need to make some changes. Talk with your TRIO advisor about how it's going.

MORE TIPS

- *Know what to read by following your syllabus or list of assignments. Do the readings before class.*
- *Always stay ahead in your reading.*
- *Determine where and when is the best time and place for you to concentrate on your reading.*
- *Take breaks. Reading ten pages at a time will seem more manageable compared to forty pages.*
- *Look away from the book and say out loud in your own words what the reading is about. Explain it to a friend. If you can explain it, you understand it.*
- *Visualize what you are reading. Make it come alive for you. Imagine the sounds, smells, and tactile information associated with it. The more senses you use, the stronger you make the neural pathways in your brain, which moves the information from short-term to long-term memory.*
- *Review, review, review! Do this regularly; it is the key to learning anything.*

Now ask your friends or classmates for two more ideas:

1.

2.