



How to Read Difficult Material



At some point you will be assigned readings that are difficult to. Here are some tips that may allow you to get through a little easier.

Before Reading...

- Skim- Read introductions, the first paragraph of sections and any summaries. They give you a better picture of what the reading is about.
- Analyze graphs, charts and illustrations
- Look for connections to things that you have already learned.

During Reading...

- Focus on key words in the text that may be bolded or italicized.
- Look for main points and topic sentences in paragraphs.
- Write main points in the margins so that you can easily go back to review.
- If you are unable to understand paragraphs- write a question in the margin to help you focus in on the paragraph
- Make periodic stops in your reading to ask yourself “What have I learned?”

After Reading...

- Restate difficult ideas in your own words
- Consult supplemental resources for learning fundamental information needed to understand the reading assignment.
- Develop your own summary of the chapter and compare it to the summary presented in the book.
- Outline the reading, looking for the overall structure, highlighting the main ideas.
- Make reading interactive- get together with other students and take turns summarizing sections or chapters in your own words.