Keys to Effective Reading

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This presentation will address the following questions and issues concerning Reading:

- Can anyone become an effective reader?
- Are there techniques and methods that I can implement to help me read more actively and effectively, to better retain what I read, and to comprehend what I read?
- Can I improve my Reading Comprehension?
Question 1:
Can I become an effective reader?

- Yes, you can!!!!

- As with any subject matter, Reading requires work and discipline especially if it is not your strong area.

- A dislike for Reading does not have to limit how well you can do it!
Question 2:
Are there techniques and methods that can help me be a more effective reader?

- Before we look at the different methods and techniques for being an effective reader you must ask yourself the following questions:
Assessment:

- Do I skim or “preview” a chapter before I begin reading?
- Do I concentrate while reading a text?
- Do I wait to underline, highlight, or annotate the text until after I read a page or section?
- Do I take notes while I read?
Assessment continued

- Do I pause at the end of each section or page to review what I have read?
- After reading, do I recite key ideas to myself or with a study partner?
- Do I review everything that I have read for a class at least once per week?
- Do I look for a connection between the text and class lectures or discussions?
- Do I set reading goals for each study period and take a short break when I have reached my goal?
Methods and Techniques:
After answering the assessment questions we can begin to learn and implement various techniques:

- There are three methods that we will look at:
  - Mapping
  - KWL Charts
  - SQ3R
Mapping

- Mapping the chapter as you preview it provides a visual guide to how different chapter ideas fit together.

- 75% of students are visual learners therefore putting content in a more graphic style can improve comprehension for many readers.
How do you map?

- While you are previewing, use your map or diagram to show the central or main idea.
- Draw lines away from the central idea on which to write down your secondary ideas or supporting ideas.
- Also allow for Key Ideas or Terms which should be found in the chapter.
Examples of Reading Maps:

Main or Central Idea

Secondary Idea

Secondary Idea

Secondary Idea
Examples continued
KWL Charts

- The purpose of a KWL Chart is figure out what you know, what you want to learn, and ultimately what you have learned.

- K = What do you KNOW about the subject or chapter? (prior knowledge)

- W = What do you WANT to know?

- L = What have you LEARNED about the subject or chapter?
How do I make a KWL Chart?

- To make a KWL Chart you will need to either draw or create a chart with three columns.
- One column is for the K, one for the W, and one for the L.
- In the K column list what you already know, in the W column list what you want to know, and in the L column list what you have LEARNED.
Example of a KWL Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The SQ3R Method is very similar to both of the previously mentioned methods. The purpose of this method is to encourage you to preview, look at the questions that go along with your chapter, and then to focus on the detailed reading of your chapter.
SQ3R

- S = Survey
- Q = Question
- Read
- Re-read
- Review
  (three Rs)
• Each of these methods promote previewing the text, finding the main and supporting ideas, and previewing the questions for each chapter or subject.

• Other actions to consider would be:
  - Reading the end of chapter questions first, can help you to recognize important and relevant words in the chapter.
  - Eliminate other distractions unless you are person who learns better and more with a noisy background.
Continued,

- Find the locations and methods that are best for YOU and discipline yourself accordingly.
- Reading, if you do not enjoy it, will require extreme attention on your part.
- Implement these methods and watch your reading ability, retention, and comprehension improve.
Question 3:
Can I improve my Reading Comprehension?

- YES

- If you will follow any of the methods explained in this chapter or seek out methods of your own to implement; you WILL see drastic improvement in what you are able to remember from you reading and how well you understand the content!!!
Useful Links:

- http://sas.calpoly.edu/asc/ssl/notetaking.systems.html
- http://www.literacy.uconn.edu/compre.htm
References:

- Your College Experience: Strategies for Success
  Annotated Instructor’s Edition
  Seventh Edition
  By: John N. Gardner, A. Jerome Jewler, and Betsy O. Barefoot