

## Reading strategies for academic texts

*"Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention."*

--Sir Francis Bacon, "Of Studies"

1. Set aside enough time to reach your goal-- getting started or getting finished?
2. Consider what questions you are assigned to answer.
3. Scan first for an overview—title, index, and chapters. Titles tell you a lot about the author's point of view.
4. Dip into text: Pay close attention to beginnings of selective paragraphs. Look for ideas that interest you.
5. Annotate while reading: Make note of key words and ideas in the margins. Talk back to the text. Don't use a highlighter. Use a pencil or pen.
6. Don't worry if you can't understand everything the first time. Academic reading often involved rereading. Expert readers know that you don't get the complete meaning out of a work on first reading.
8. Many of these same rules apply to reading online. The only problem is it's easy to get lost from your main task.
10. Talk to your friends and/or classmates about the reading.

Websites about academic reading:

improve your reading of academic texts

<http://www.tlc.murdoch.edu.au/slearn/resource/pdf/Improve%20your%20reading.pdf>

tips on reading academic texts

<http://shoeleg.yak.net/51>

How to read a scientific paper

<http://bell.mma.edu/~jbouch/ReadingPapers.html>