

College Reading Tips

Reading at the collegiate level can be much different from the casual reading that many people are accustomed to. Here are some tips for reading and understanding college level material.

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| When the going gets difficult, and you don't understand the reading, slow down and re-read sections. | Review the main ideas in the text after you finish reading. |
| Consult another source. What does another author have to say on the same topic? | Read the entire piece, then write a one-paragraph or one-sentence summary. |
| If you don't understand a word, look it up in a dictionary. | Pay attention to when you can skim and when you need to understand every word. |
| Read sitting up, with a good light, at a desk or table. | Keep background noise to a minimum. Loud music will not make you a better reader. |
| Read in short bursts. Try to read for 35 to 40 minutes at a time, and then take a short break. | Break long assignments into segments. Read 10 pages, then do something else. Later, read the next 10 pages and so on. |

Many of these tips were drawn from these pages, which have additional information on college-level reading:

<http://www.providence.edu/OAS/Shop/Reading.htm>

and

<http://www.isu.edu/~kingkath/readstrt.html>