

Active Reading

- Read in a quiet area, free of distraction, with a pen or pencil in hand.
- Pay extra special attention to titles and subheadings. Before reading, skim through them and predict what the article is going to be about. As you read, see if the article meets your expectations or not.
- As you read, underline important ideas and phrases.
- Make note if there are any particular passages that you like or don't like.
- Read critically. Think about where the author is coming from and what biases he or she may have, given the time period it was written and the intended audience.
- Make a note in the margins if:
 - You think of a question while you are reading.
 - You figure out the main idea of a paragraph or a segment of the author's argument.
 - You have a strong reaction or emotion to what the author is saying.
- Be on the look out for transitional or qualifying words to note shifts in the author's argument.
- After you've finished reading a section or the entire article, scan through it again to review the author's main points—this will really help you to retain what you've read.
- Use sticky notes if you can't mark up the text.