

# Reading Comprehension

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# Before You Begin...

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- Find a desirable place to read. You may favor a quiet location or a location outdoors. Make sure to pick somewhere with limited distractions.
- Make sure you have everything you need, not just the text. If you need to rummage through your bag to find a highlighter or a pencil, it's easy to lose your train of thought. Set out your text and any writing utensils, tabs, or anything else you may use onto your workspace.
- Plan out how much you want to read. Don't plan to read five chapters of your textbook in an hour. Even if you can read that quickly, you aren't going to retain as much as if you focus on a few chapters at a time.



# Active Reading

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- Active reading allows you to understand what you are reading far better than if you just scan the words on the page. It includes taking notes, highlighting, underlining, and anything else to help organize your thoughts.
- Use the margins of the page to write down notes while you read. Any thoughts you have on the text can be written down. It can be your opinion on something, a connection to a text you have read before, or a question you have about what has been stated.
- Highlight or underline main ideas. Many people have trouble discerning what to underline or highlight so we will go over this in the next slide.

# Underlining

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- Underlining information in the text can be very helpful, but if you are not picking the vital information, the method becomes ineffective.
- One way to underline is to only mark the important clause within a main idea.
- For example: if the sentence says, “Though we have set many regulations to minimize the effects of the disposal of refrigerator and aerosol containers, the CFC’s in the atmosphere will take many more decades to run their course and to stop braking down the ozone layer.” one might underline “the CFC’s in the atmosphere will take many more decades to run their course.”



# Underlining

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- Another method is to underline the main idea in addition to the supporting detail.
- By putting an asterisk (\*) next to the main idea and color coordinating the supporting details, you can organize your thoughts much easier.

# Example of Underlining

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Many authors have written about the fight for civil rights during the mid and late twentieth century, but few have written with as much depth and insight as Alice Walker\*. Her real life experiences and thoughts were recorded in her book, “Living By the Word,” and showcase her struggles being an African American female during the civil rights movement. She rights about her childhood when she watched her parents struggle to support their family. She wrote about the pain she felt while trying to connect with her heritage in a world that encouraged her to reject it. She touched upon the happy and sad moments of her life demonstrating the full human experience as she felt it. For these reasons, Alice Walker will be remembered for her emotional depictions of the inequalities that have plagued our country.



# Extra Tips

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- Take breaks. Without stopping, you are more prone to begin to scan the page without actually reading.
- Divide up how much you need to read over the week. **Do not wait until the night before a test to read the whole unit.**
- If you don't understand something you read, first try to look it up. If you still don't understand it, mark it down and ask your professor after class or during their office hours.

