

Whether you are reading your textbook for class, are analyzing the argument in a journal article, or are evaluating the credibility of an internet essay, these reading strategies can help you make the most of your study time and retain information longer. These strategies get easier and faster with practice and will save time later when reviewing for exams.

The PRR Approach: Read Material More Effectively		
Preview	Read	Recall
<p>Why?</p> <p>If you give your mind a general framework of the text’s main ideas and structure, you will be better able to comprehend and retain the details you read later.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>Being an active reader will involve you in understanding the material, combat boredom, and increase retention.</p>	<p>Why?</p> <p>Research shows that 40-50% of the material we read is forgotten shortly after we read it. Immediate recall is an essential first step towards continued retention.</p>
<p>How?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preview your textbook as a whole: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title Author Publication information Table of contents Introduction or preface Preview the individual chapter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title Introduction Sub-headings Diagrams & charts Conclusion Make concrete predictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is this text mainly about? How is it organized? How difficult is it? How long will it take you to read? 	<p>How?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set realistic goals for how long and how many pages you’ll be able to read. Don’t try to read the entire chapter in one sitting. Divide it into sections. Ask yourself a question before each paragraph or section, and then try to answer it as you read. Create questions from subheadings or first sentences by adding “Who,” “what,” “when,” or “how?” Take short breaks as needed to improve focus. 	<p>How?</p> <p>After reading a small section, do one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall mentally or recite orally the highlights of what you have read. Ask yourself questions you think your professor might ask and answer in your own words. Underline, highlight, or make marginal notes of key words and phrases in the section. This is the best way to decide what information is most important. Makes separate notes or outlines of what you have read. Quiz yourself or have a friend quiz you.