

READING STRATEGIES FOR COLLEGE AND USING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW

Learning Challenges Encountered when Reading in College

- Students may not have the background knowledge to fully understand the reading.
- The amount of reading assigned may be too much for students to complete.
- Students may not see the relevance of the reading to their lives or other course material.
- Students may have poor reading comprehension, limited vocabulary, or lack fluency.
- Students may need to develop the ability to critically evaluate information for accuracy, authority, bias, and more.

Tips for Better Reading

- Find an environment that fits into your learning style-the right spot will increase focus and concentration
- Use Smart Starting Strategies
 - Break up the reading
 - Pace yourself: schedule regular breaks for dense material
 - Check for understanding
- If you get stuck: think and write about where you got stuck. Contemplate why that particular place was difficult and how you might break through the block.
- When you don't understand the reading, slow down and reread sections. Try to explain them.
- Write questions as you read.



Comparison Chart for Reading Tools

FEATURES	READ&WRITE	NATURAL READERS	ONENOTE
Preview the Text	✓	✗	✗
Text-to-Speech	✓	✓	✗
Screen masking	✓	✗	✗
Highlight or Annotate Text	✓	✓	✗
Look up terminology	✓	✗	✗
Make Connections	✗	✓	✓
Review & Summarize	✗	✓	✓
Discuss what you've read	✓	✓	✓

Applying the Strategies

Preview the Text

- What's the topic?
- What do you already know?
- What can you learn from the text from any table of contents, glossary, or introduction?
- What do titles, subheadings, charts, and graphs tell you?

Text-to-Speech

- Audiobooks and digital TTS books lets students hear text read aloud

Screen Masking

- Helpful tools that allows student to visually track text while blocking out surrounding words that might be distracting

Highlight or Annotate the Text

- Highlight and make notes within the reading
- Mark main ideas

Look up terminology you are not familiar with

- Writing quickly and automatically relates directly to the quality of notes, with faster transcription speeds enabling students to write more content and higher quality notes.

Make Connections

- Work on determining and analyzing out important information and rephrasing information into a understanding concept.

Review and summarize

Discuss what you've read