

BEFORE YOUR READ



Look at the Table of Contents (if there is one)

- A table of contents is a skeleton outline of the information you can expect to learn as you read
- Before you begin, take a second to study it
- Let's say you're reading Chapter 5
- How does Chapter 5 fit in with the "big picture" of the textbook?
- Remember, your job as a student is to see how all the little bits (chapters & lectures) fit together to make the whole (textbook & course)
- If you can understand how the material you are learning fits into the "big picture" you will understand, learn, and remember that material better

Headings, Chapter Previews & Summaries, and Reviews

- These fun things break your readings into chunks
- Remember, we are more likely to work and work well if a task looks easier and small
- They also give you a general sense of what a chapter is about
- Chapter summary and review sections ESPECIALLY... are a wealth of information
- Those first few pages tell you what to expect (so you have an idea of what information you are about to learn)
- Those last few pages tell you what's important (the information you should take away from having read the chapter)
- The review sections can also offer a great source of study questions that may or may not show up on your test/exam...

Ask Yourself... “What do I already know?”

- This gets your brain thinking about what information you already know about the topic you're reading
- Which then allows you to make meaningful connections between what you already know and what you are learning
- Attaching new information to old information will help you learn and remember the new information better

Cuseo, Joseph B, Aaron Thompson, Michele Campagna, Viki Sox Fecas. *Thriving in College and Beyond: Research-Based Strategies for Academic Success and personal Development*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 2016.

Ellis, Dave. *Becoming a Master Student*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.