

Reading Strategies

Picking the right reading strategy is important. Ask yourself the question, what is my purpose for reading? Review the three strategies below and select the best one that fits.

Study Reading

This reading strategy is used to understand challenging material. Use it when you need to remember and gain a deep understanding of the information. You should read at a rate that is slower than your normal rate. Reread important sections then try explaining what you read out loud.

Skimming

This reading strategy is used for general understanding. Use it when you need to read large amounts of information in a short period of time. When using this strategy, read the main ideas in each paragraph. Read the opening and closing sentences. Don't spend time on the supporting sentences typically found in the middle of a paragraph. You are only looking for the main idea.

Scanning

This reading strategy is used when you want to find a specific piece of information. Move your eyes quickly through the reading material and only stop when you find the word or phrase you are looking for. Don't worry about understanding until you find the target piece of information. Once you find what you are looking for, read that section.