Effective Textbook Study Strategy

Research proves that college students who use a systematic approach to reading and study are more successful in courses than those who study in a haphazard manner. How can you adapt this study strategy to meet your needs?

The first step to success in studying, like life, is knowing where you’re going.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COCHRAN CAMPUS</th>
<th>DUBLIN CAMPUS</th>
<th>EASTMAN CAMPUS</th>
<th>WARNER ROBINS CAMPUS</th>
<th>MACON CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student Success Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grace Hall—2nd Floor</td>
<td>Room # LIB 200</td>
<td>Terry L. Coleman Center for Aviation &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Oak Hall 128</td>
<td>Library—2nd Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: 478-934-3106</td>
<td>Phone: 478-274-7952</td>
<td>Phone: 478-374-6700</td>
<td>Phone: 478-929-6770</td>
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SURVEY
Get ready to be successful. Become familiar with the organization and general content of the assignment. Decide how difficult the material is for you. Read the title, introductory paragraphs, boldface headings, italics, illustrations, last paragraphs, summary, and end-of-chapter questions. Spend about 5-10 minutes preparing.

If you don’t read to find out specific information, you probably won’t.

QUESTION
Set purpose(s) for your reading. Decide what you want to know when you have finished the reading assignment. Use the questions at the end of the assignment as a guide, turn section/boldface heading into questions, or set up an outline of major headings.

READ
Read to fulfill your purpose. Read actively to answer the questions you have set out. Read with variable speed depending on the difficulty level of the material and your purpose. You may need to read portions of the text more than one time.

RECITE or RETRIEVE
Test yourself. After you have finished reading each section, check to make sure you can answer the questions you set out for yourself. If you cannot, reread to find the answer. Make notes to use for review sessions.

REVIEW or SPANNING
Periodically review the material you need to remember. When you have completed the entire assignment, make certain you can recall all the information you need. Continue to review the information on a regular schedule. Reciting (self-testing) helps make certain you understand the material as you read it; periodic review helps you commit that information to your long term memory.

Put this strategy into practice with the worksheet on the reverse side.
## Practice: Effective Textbook Strategy

You’ve been given an assignment to read a chapter in your textbook. Write answers/notes in your notebook.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>What is the chapter about?</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Get ready to be successful.  
• Review organization /general content  
• Decide difficulty of material  
• Read titles, introductory paragraphs, boldface headings, italics, illustrations, last paragraph, summary, and end of chapter questions. | How is the chapter organized?  
How do I know about this subject?  
How difficult will this reading be for me?  
What are the major topics in the chapter? |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Turn section heading in a question or read paragraph/section to Identify first question.</th>
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</table>
| Set purpose(s) for your reading.  
Read to answer questions  
• Use end-of-chapter questions  
• Rephrase sections headings  
• Outline major headings | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read</th>
<th>Read material following heading to answer question.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Read to fulfill your purpose.  
• Read actively to answer your questions  
• Read with variable speed | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recite or Retrieve</th>
<th>Briefly answer the question in your own words. Make notes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rest yourself.  
• Answer specific questions  
• Connect specific answers with chapter’s larger main ideas and concepts | Continue to question, read, and recite until assignment is complete. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Review or Spanning</th>
<th>Review all the material in this chapter that you have to know and then combine this new information with what you’ve learned from previous chapters and lectures.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Go over the material periodically  
• Test yourself first time 2 or 3 days later to develop long-term memory retrieval (otherwise you’ll be retrieving from short-term memory which will seem easy, but later it won’t stick)  
• Schedule regular review sessions throughout the semester  
• Always connect new information with material from previous study | |