



Tackling the Textbook: Reading to make it stick

1. Read the weekly objectives before you begin reading.

- Get an overview of what you will be learning.
- Consider what you know and what you don't know... yet.

2. Read through the corresponding PPT slides.

- Quickly read slides and turn each slide into a question.
- This is not the time to listen to the lecture. You are discovering the narrative, identifying new vocabulary, and getting a sense of what will be important in the reading and later for the lecture.

3. Preview the textbook.

- Skim the chapter headings, pictures with captions, chapter summary, and questions.
- These items serve as additional objectives and give you a clear idea of what you should be looking for in the readings.

4. Now begin reading.

- Read the first 2 sentences of the paragraph and decide if this information is noteworthy or something you can skim over.

Noteworthy: addresses an objective, adds info to PPT slides, answers your questions, or provides important foundational information.

5. Take notes and summarize.

- Consider taking Cornell-style notes as you read.
- After reading and taking notes in each subsection, consider if you want to write a short summary in your own words, focusing on the most important concepts.
- Reread your notes shortly after you've finished taking them.
- Use these notes to quiz through the information the next day. This will really boost retention and identify knowledge gaps.

6. Take breaks as you read.

- Consider reading for only 20-45 minutes, then take a 5-10-minute break.
- When returning from a break, reread that last few notes to get back on track.