

**Textbook Study Tips & Ideas:**

## **MAKING YOUR TEXT WORK FOR YOU**

### **1. Know the parts of a textbook.**

Every part of a textbook serves a purpose for the student. Review them often and make use of those that are most helpful in preparing for your classes and for exams: table of contents, chapter reviews, chapter test, glossary, index, headings, etc. Books are designed with the student in mind. Keep your book in mind too!

### **2. Take notes when you read.**

Many people simply read the text, thinking they will remember what they read. Treat your text like a lecture in print. Take notes on what you read. Review your notes and re-read the text only for clarification.

### **3. Correlate the text with the lectures and class work.**

Read the text to see how it supports, defines, explains, or demonstrate what the class lectures are all about. If your text has further information that connects with a lecture, take notes in your notebook right next to your lecture notes. This can be great info to add to an essay question, or to raise a question in class.

### **4. Read the text more than once**

This is especially true when there is a lot of information packed into the text. Re-reading it gives your mind a chance to pick up new ideas, see subtle differences, or grasp the flow of thought that the author is communicating. Frequent reading and then thinking about what you read is a better way to study for understanding than just cramming info from the text into your brain. The info visits for a while but does not remain.

### **5. Don't let highlighting in your textbooks become a distraction.**

Highlighting can be helpful, if done very, very sparingly and correctly. Do not highlight just to pick out a fact to recall. Highlight a key word that will help you recall all the info on a page. Otherwise, that highlight later on can become a distraction to your studying. Consider using post-its instead.

### **6. Don't skip over pictures, graphs, charts or other illustrations.**

These are methods of communicating information in a visual format. Look at them and make sure you know how to read and interpret them.

### **7. As you read, write down questions you might ask in class.**

This will help you focus your attention and connect the text with the lecture.

### **8. Read aloud.**

Enough said.