Reading Across Disciplines: Textbook Reading Strategy Applications

Reading strategies are:

All reading (and application of reading strategy use) is not equal. When we read our textbooks (or any texts), we read for different purposes.

Understanding *how* to read a textbook requires us to:

* Understand our purpose for reading
* Look for clues in the text *before* we start reading:
  + Headings
  + Tables/Figures and Captions
  + Bold-faced Words, Definitions
  + Text Boxes
  + [your answers here]
* Anticipate our challenges
* Document our understanding of the text for future application

# Global Strategies

Global strategies refer to general approaches to reading. Often times, we apply these all-around general reading approaches before we even begin to read the text word-for-word.

Ask yourself, “What is the purpose for reading this text? What do I want to get out of this reading?”

Examples:

# Support Strategies

Support strategies ensure good information retention and understanding. They document our understanding so that we can refer back to our notes in the future. Often times, we apply these all-around general reading approaches before we even begin to read the text word-for-word.

Ask yourself, “What do I want to remember from this text?”

Examples:

# Problem-Solving Strategies

Problem-solving strategies help us get our reading back on track. They make sure that we are not simply turning letters into sounds and words on the page but that we are making *meaning* from those words. We use these strategies in the moment while reading.

Ask yourself, “What do I need to do to get my understanding back on track?”

Examples:

Textbook Reading Strategy Applications

With your group, fill in the following chart for your focal discipline. Skim the textbooks in your group and discuss! One of the tricks to studying smarter—not harder—is to benefit from your smart classmates! ☺

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Purpose(s) for Reading Texts | Common Textbook Features | How to Use Them | Recommended Strategies (include at least one of each type)  {individually add an annotation about the benefits of these particular strategies for this subject} |
| **Mathematics** | Understand how to apply a formula  [add at least one purpose] | Sample math problems with titles | Skim the titles of the examples, highlighting the type of problem | GLOB |
|  |  | SUP |
|  |  | PROB |
| **(Hard) Sciences** |  |  |  | GLOB |
|  |  | SUP |
|  |  | PROB |
| **(Social)**  **Sciences** |  |  |  | GLOB |
|  |  | SUP |
|  |  | PROB |
| **English**  **(Reading, Composition)** |  |  |  | GLOB |
|  |  | SUP |
|  |  | PROB |