PREMIUM: An Active Reading System for College Students

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PREMIUM

Preview

- Increase reading rate
- Increase comprehension

- Narrow down what you will read in a single sitting (5/10/20 pages), THEN

- Read available Preface/Introduction and Conclusion/Summary, AND/OR

- Read the first sentence of each paragraph or the heading of each sub-section.
Read

- Read one paragraph (or even one sentence) at a time.
- It is okay to go slowly.
- Give what you are reading your full attention.
  - Find a place to read with minimal distractions. Likely it will not be in your room.
Evaluate

- Stop after each paragraph (or sentence, or section depending on the level of difficulty) and check your comprehension by doing the following:
Main Idea/ Most Important

- Highlight modestly.
  - No more than one sentence per paragraph.
  - Find either the main idea OR the most important point to remember.

- If textbook “resale” value is a concern, find an alternative way to capture this information by keeping a separate set of reading notes.
Interpret

- Ask yourself “what is this sentence, paragraph, or section telling me?”

- Then put it in your own words and jot it in the margins (or somewhere else if necessary).

- Use short phrases, numeric lists, or even a doodle to help trigger your memory.
PREMIUM

Understand?
Ask yourself:

- Did you find something worth highlighting?
- Were you able to make a note in the margins about what you read?
- If you don’t understand and/or remember what you just read, then you need to read that section again.
Move Along

- Repeat the PREMIUM process with the next sentence, paragraph or section of reading.

- When you finish actively reading an assignment, you will be able to:
  - participate more fully in class discussions,
  - use your annotations to prepare for quizzes/tests,
  - easily find documentation to support your essays and written work.