

Strategies for Reading Success

Found in the text Reading to Graduate

How to Successfully Approach any Passage

1. Look Ahead. Look only at the headings and illustrations on one page. Then turn to the next page and do the same. Spend only about ten seconds examining each page and read only the title, headings, and subheadings in bold type. (page 5)
2. Look Back. Stop reading. Start reviewing. Having read the passage, go back to the beginning and study its headings and subheadings one more time. Think as you read: What was the author trying to tell me in this section? (page 12)

How to Overcome Boredom

3. Jump to the end. For any passage, (1) read the first paragraph. (2) Skipping over the middle paragraphs, read the last paragraph. (4) Go back to start over at the beginning. Now read all paragraphs in the correct order from first to last. (page 36)
4. Ask a question. Make yourself curious by posing a question about an article's title and subtitle. (page 36)
5. Make a mental movie. While reading, make a movie in your mind. Pretend that you are either a movie director or script writer who wants to base a movie on the article or story. (page 37)

How to Adjust to an Authors Style

6. Notice the organization. Be aware of the choices an author makes for organizing an article or story. (page 76)

How to Avoid Frustration

7. If you get lost, go back. Good readers often fail to understand something, and when they do, they realize it. "Wait a minute!" they say to themselves. "I didn't get that last part. Let me read it one more time." You should do the same. Whenever you read a paragraph that makes no sense to you, go back and reread it. (page 77)
8. Keep reading. Get past the "vocabulary bumps." in a passage. Whenever you encounter a string of unfamiliar words or unknown place names, pause briefly and then pass right on by. In other words, keep reading. Do not stop. Do not allow yourself to become frustrated. (page 78)
9. Take a short break. If frustration on a reading test begins to jangle your nerves, look away from the page. Stare at the ceiling and count to ten—or fifteen at most. Then get back to work. (page 78)

How to Build Stamina For a Major Test

10. Take control. Don't allow a long test to wear down your patience by dragging you along from one reading to the next. Go on the offensive! Come into the test with a plan based upon your own strengths as a reader and thinker. (page 163)

