

# Reading Techniques

By using various reading techniques, you can read more efficiently, i.e. read more in less time and benefit more from your reading. Here are six different techniques you can try.

<b>1. Read the same text several times - in different ways</b>	<p>If you are using more than one approach at the same time, your reading outcome may be unclear, unfocused and imprecise. A good suggestion to read the text several times take focused notes.</p> <p>Reading approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Historical</li><li>• Rhetorical</li><li>• Argumentation-oriented</li><li>• Literary</li><li>• Theoretically-oriented</li></ul>
<b>2. Select your reading strategy</b>	<p>The way you choose to approach the text also provides the basis for the various readings. Here are examples of reading strategies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the text in its context. Who does this text refer to, and who refers to it? Where is located in the disciplinary landscape?</li><li>2. Read the text empathetically (identify and engage with the text)</li><li>3. Read the text critically.</li><li>4. Read the text analytically, focusing on its structure, style, purpose; aim, focus and argumentation.</li><li>5. Read the text into your own context - for your use, purpose, own ideas.</li></ol>
<b>3. Change the way you read in the same reading session</b>	<p>Using this technique has a positive effect on one's ability to concentrate.</p>
<b>4. Read from the outside in</b>	<p>Most of the central and important information is written at beginning and end, so, it is a good idea to read entire books, entire chapters and entire sections outside in. In other words, rather than reading the entire book, the entire chapter or the entire section linearly, you read from both ends.</p>

<b>5. Take notes while you read.</b>	<b>Kinds of notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighting and underlining</li> <li>• Notes in the margin</li> <li>• Notes on paper, index cards or the computer</li> <li>• Mind maps</li> <li>• **Noting quotations</li> <li>• Proper summaries</li> <li>• Tables, diagrams, timelines.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Read to become familiar with a new topic: Start broadly then narrow in</b>	<p>If you are getting started with a new topic or subject area, never start by reading the most difficult book on theory, but rather by reading general reference works. Then read a general textbook or a general introduction to the subject, and after that you can read books on theory, anthologies and general disciplinary works on the subject.</p> <p>Finish by reading the latest scientific articles on the subject.</p>

Sources:

- Peter Stray Jørgensen: "Notatteknik for studerende – Lyt, læs – noter og skriv", Samfundslitteratur, 2001
- Peter Stray Jørgensen: "Studielæsning på videregående uddannelser", Samfundslitteratur, 2007