



## Reading Strategies: Reading Efficiently & Effectively

Academic Coaching

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[Drop-in Zoom room](#) (M-F, 9-6 – closed 12-1 pm daily)

# Why Think About a Reading Strategy?



Reading for a course can be different than reading for pleasure. Using an effective reading strategy can help you to be more intentional with your note-taking, and increase your understanding of the material.

It can also help you to budget your time and is essential for test preparation.

# How Are You Reading?



- Read straight through, try to remember what I've read.
- I highlight things that look important.
- I make notes in the margins and on a page, or I use a digital note-taking system.
- I don't read.

# Activity



Either on paper or digitally, take 5 minutes to write a response to the following prompt:

**How satisfied are you with the results of your reading strategy?** Do you feel you are able to understand the material? Can you describe concepts and systems from the reading?

([link to Google Timer](#) to set your time)

# Academic texts are organized in a system.

This system follows a pattern, and by using it you can read more efficiently AND deeply.

Taking some time to explore your textbooks can give you deeper insight into the subject and how it is organized.

Pull out one of your textbooks and take a look.  
How are chapters organized? Does they have:

Outcomes?

Chapter outline?

How many sections?

How many subsections for each section?

What topics are the graphs or tables about?

Is there a chapter review?

Are there any critical thinking questions?



# Creating Preview Questions



## Chapter 1. Science and the Universe: A Brief Tour

### [Introduction](#)

1.1. [The Nature of Astronomy](#)

1.2. [The Nature of Science](#)

1.3. [The Laws of Nature](#)

1.4. [Numbers in Astronomy](#)

1.5. [Consequences of Light Travel](#)

### [Time](#)

1.6. [A Tour of the Universe](#)

1.7. [The Universe on the Large](#)

### [Scale](#)

1.8. [The Universe of the Very Small](#)

1.9. [A Conclusion and a Beginning](#)

[For Further Exploration](#)

Using the chapter headings, you can create questions that will guide your reading.

What is it?

How does it work?

Why is it important?

What does it connect to?

So you could write, “What is the Nature of Astronomy?” and read & take notes to answer that question.

# Creating Preview Questions



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What is it?

How does it work?

Why is it important?

What does it connect to?

To read more deeply and gain greater understanding, you will need to move beyond “What” into “How,” “Why” and making connections.

You can write these questions in the margins, or on your notes and read to answer them.

# Try it out:

On a piece of paper, write down the questions

- What is it?
- How does it work?
- Why is it important?
- What does it connect to?

Then go to this [link to an Astronomy textbook](#). The chapter is “The Nature of Astronomy.”

Read the section, and write the answers on your paper.





# Reflection:

Take 4 minutes to write to this prompt. This is the final piece of the assignment.

What was different about reading to answer the questions? Is this a strategy that might work for you? Why or why not?

If you'd like to talk to a coach about other reading strategies and techniques, contact Academic Coaching at

[lbcoach@linnbenton.edu](mailto:lbcoach@linnbenton.edu)

or check out our webpage: [Academic Coaching](#)

