

How to Read Critically with P2R



One method that enables students to actively read textbooks and articles is P2R. This method helps students to process and engage with information actively, which results in better recall and a higher level of understanding.

Preview

This step should take about two to five minutes and will help you begin to make connections with the content, as well as what you may have learned in class. Additionally, it will help ease you into the topic or subject, and give you a sense of what will be covered.

1. Read the title of the section.
2. Read the introduction and summary (if given). If not, read the first two and last two paragraphs of the section.
3. Skim through the section paying attention to topic headings, bold-faced words, pictures, charts, and graphs. If the section is short, you may find it helpful to read the first sentence of each paragraph.

HELPFUL HINT: *Be sure to just preview the material at this point and move quickly!*

Read Actively

Break the material into manageable sections for each sitting. For example, set a 30-minute time limit, or a number of pages before you begin reading. Read the material section by section. Here are a few strategies to try that will also help when preparing for your exams:

1. **Highlight or underline the material you think is important**—You may want to read an entire paragraph or section before highlighting or underlining. This will help you identify key concepts.
2. **Take notes**—You can take notes directly in the book, in the margins, or on a separate sheet of paper. Focus on identifying the main points and making connections to lectures or other readings from class. Imagine you are creating a study guide for someone else.
3. **Study charts, graphs, tables, and pictures**—These can serve to present new information as well as tie together key concepts from the reading.

HELPFUL HINT: *Check in with yourself often, and be sure to take breaks. If you aren't focused, go back and re-read the material.*

Review

After each section, be sure to review what you just read. Try the following:

1. Summarize the key points by writing three or four statements about the text in your own words.
2. Give a mini-lecture out loud summarizing the key points.
3. Answer questions at the end of each section or from study guide material.
4. Predict and answer questions that you believe may be on a quiz or test.