

“What the brain brings to the eyes is more important than what the eyes bring to the brain.”

-Frank Smith,  
*Understanding Reading*



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## Reading Tips and Strategies

▶ Mini-Lesson  
#13

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**Find a reading strategy that works for you. Try the following strategies.**

First, read the selection in its entirety, without taking notes or marking the book.

Now that you have a sense of the essay, reread with a pencil, taking notes of your questions and reactions.

If you are not used to marking up your text, try the following:

Underline the main ideas.

Use numbers to identify each idea's <sup>1</sup>supporting <sup>2</sup>points.

Circle **keywords** or **phrases** so that you can review them later.

Place an asterisk (\*) next to words that confuse your comprehension so that you can look them up or ask appropriate questions later.

If a sentence is problematic, try to pinpoint the exact place where the author loses you. Put that sentence in parentheses and put an asterisk by it.

React to the text! For example, disagree with the author, refer to your own experiences, acknowledge an astute point, question the logic used, etc.

**Other points to remember:**

📖 Participate in the reading.

📖 Read for ideas, not just words.

📖 Determine and respond to the author's purpose.

📖 Determine the purpose of your reading before you start.

📖 Read between the lines, determining the tone or implication of the author's word choice.

📖 Pursue the point. Do not get distracted by confusing details; sift through them to find the author's main ideas.

📖 Expand your vocabulary by looking up words when necessary.

References: Bartholomae's *Ways of Reading* and Kolzow's *College Reading: Strategies for Success*



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