

OK5R Textbook Study System

Adapted from: Congos, Dennis H. (2011) Starting Out in Community College. Chicago, IL: McGraw-Hill

Before Reading

OVERVIEW: Glance at headings and subheadings, questions, and summaries. Get the big picture!

During Reading

KEY IDEAS: Discriminate between main ideas and their supporting details. Main ideas are what you need to understand and the subsequent supporting details will help you do that.

READ: Read a paragraph/short section and ask yourself: *What is the main idea? Supporting and explanatory details? Do I remember the material well enough to explain accurately to someone else?*

To learn and remember, you must be actively involved in reading in the manner described above.

RECORD: Record your understanding. Make marginal notes and underline key words and phrases. Summarize main ideas and supporting materials. Avoid summarizing sentence by sentence. Focus on recording ideas.

After Reading

RECITE: Using your notes, cover the details & expose main ideas. Recite the details to that main idea. Check for accuracy.

Read-record-recite in this manner (paragraphs, notecards, etc.). Cover all material.

REVIEW: Recite aloud 2 to 4 times per week.

REFLECT: Think about main ideas. Compare one with another. Notice where they agree and differ. Organize them into larger categories OR compress them into smaller units.