

READING ACADEMIC TEXTS

Explanation:

Reading is an active process, not a passive one. When you are new to university study, the amount of reading you are expected to do can be overwhelming. Some of the texts you are expected to read will be easy and familiar (news articles and text books) but some will be more complicated (journal articles or scholarly book chapters). It is important that you do the required reading for your subject – preferably before the class on the given topic – and that you find ways to make sure you understand the key message from each text. Although this might seem a lot of work, it is important that you read widely across the session and don't rely on last minute reading before assignments are due.

There are ways you can learn how to get the most out of your reading. What appears to be an impossible task (understanding everything in the text) becomes possible when you start becoming an active reader; that is, asking questions about what you need to find out, taking a strategic and critical approach, and then selecting readings that relate to your questions and tasks.

Learning Activities:

Critical reading activity
Unilearning, University of Wollongong
http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/critical/2d_q1.html

Test yourself reading in one minute
Learning skills, James Cook University
http://www-public.jcu.edu.au/learningskills/resources/lsonline/effective/JCUPRD1_070467

Other resources:

Reading efficiently, reading critically
Unilearning, Univeristy of Wollongnong
<http://unilearning.uow.edu.au/reading/1a.html>

Effective reading and Note-taking Skills
Academic support, University of NSW
<https://student.unsw.edu.au/effective-reading>

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