



What are the keys to success – and the problems to avoid in Reading / Discussion-Based Classes?

Introduction:

You will be a more focused student if you adjust the way you study depending on the type of class your professor is teaching. In Reading/Discussion-Based classes, the professor may lecture part of the time, but classes frequently include discussion and group work based on assigned reading.

What are the KEYS TO SUCCESS in a Reading or Discussion-Based Class?

- 🔑 Read assigned material carefully for mastery and understanding before you come to class.
- 🔑 Read with a purpose or a question in mind. Be sure you know what you are looking for!
- 🔑 Make notations in the assigned reading so you can identify key points for later use.

What are students' most common problems in a Reading or Discussion-Based Class?

- Students skim the material too quickly, or they focus on details when they read, so they don't identify what matters most in the reading.
Tip:
 - Use information from the class or clues in the reading itself to figure out what's important for you to learn and remember.
- Students lose concentration and find their mind wandering while they read.
Tips:
 - Develop a focus for your reading. Based on the assignment and/or clues in the reading [in the introduction, for example], pose one or more questions which seem to reflect the main point of the reading. Then read to answer those question(s).
 - Read one section at a time, then stop and summarize what you have just read before you go on. If you can't summarize, reread that section.
- Students do not remember what they have read, or they can't find key points later for class discussion or a paper.
Tip:
 - Make very brief notations in the margins of the reading so it's easy to find specific items later. [*Note: Highlighting generally does not work as well as making notations.*]

Very Important Tip:

Assistance with both reading and annotation is available in the Learning & Advising Center! Just call x2730 to set up an appointment with a professional reading/study skills tutor.

The Learning & Advising Center



A bright idea!