



# Active Reading

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS READING RESOURCE SHEET

*Ways of reading actively:*

1

### **HIGHLIGHT or MARK important text and key words**

Underline or highlight key words and phrases as you read but be selective. Highlighting parts of a text in this way will help you find what's important when you reread. You can also use sticky notes to write notes about important sections of text or add margin comments.

2

### **ASK QUESTIONS**

Read critically by asking questions of the text. Who wrote it? When? Who is the intended audience? What is the purpose of the text? Who says this is true? Does it link with other material you've studied? Why do you think it was written? Is it an excerpt from a longer piece of text? What does that mean? Is this important? Is this fact or opinion?

3

### **REACT and CONNECT**

Make sure you think about what you want to achieve and keep the purpose in mind as you read. When you read you need to "listen" to the author, look for connections between you and what you are reading and relate it to your own experience, comparing and contrasting to things you know.

4

### **PREDICT**

Use pictures, titles, headings, and text—as well as personal experience—to make predictions before you begin to read. Predicting involves thinking ahead while reading and anticipating information and events in the text. After making predictions, you can read through the text and refine, revise, and verify your predictions.

5

### **VISUALIZE**

Visualizing text (making pictures in your mind), as it is being read, creates a personal link between you and the text. This can help you "see" what you are reading or thinking and help you to remember. Picturing a chart, sketch or diagram can also help to remember information and promote reading comprehension.

6

### **CLARIFY**

Pull together what you have learned. Summarize in your own words, make notes or explain what you've read to someone else. This helps to clarify what you have read.